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'Armed bandits' kill Niger soldier in Nigeria

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"Armed bandits" have killed a Niger soldier and seriously wounded three others in Nigeria's volatile north-east, a high-ranking Niger security official told AFP Thursday, in new violence to hit an area considered as the home base of Islamist sect Boko Haram.

"A soldier from Niger was killed yesterday (Wednesday) around 7:00 pm (1800 GMT) and three others were wounded in an attack by eight armed bandits on Nigerian territory," the official said on condition of anonymity.

The soldiers were part of a West African force based in Baga, a town located in Nigeria's restive north

eastern state of Borno.

The three wounded soldiers were taken to a hospital in eastern Niger's Diffa, near the border with Nigeria.

Diffa-based private radio station Anfani claimed the soldiers were "ambushed by Boko Haram 10 kilometres (six miles) from the border with Niger".

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