

MILITARY KILLS 74 INSURGENTS IN GROUND, AIR ATTACKS IN BORNO



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Seventy four insurgents, believed to be members of the Boko Haram, have been killed in ground and air offensives by soldiers, the military authorities in Borno State disclosed yesterday.

Spokesman of the 7 Division of Nigerian Army Lt. Col Muhammad Dole said in a statement that troops on patrol killed insurgents at Galangi and Lawanti villages of Kaga Local Government Area of Borno State.

He said many other insurgents fled with gunshot wounds and fractures.

According to him, "yesterday's (Thursday) operations and assaults on insurgents were very successful, because the terror suspects were taken unawares with their vehicles in the Mainok general area of Konduga Local Government Area of Borno State.

"The operation, which involved ground and aerial assaults by the Nigerian Air Force led to the destruction of the identified terrorist camps, killing 74 terrorists while others fled with serious injuries," he said.

Dole said apart from killing the insurgents, the troops also recovered two Isuzu Tiger pickup vehicles and five units of Hilux vehicles, allegedly used in attacking Borno villages and towns in the last six months.

While appreciating the contribution of residents in stemming the activities of insurgents, the spokesman said, "The General Officer Commanding 7 Division Nigerian Army, Maj-Gen. Obidah Ethan appreciates the general public for their resilience and cooperation by providing timely and credible information to security agencies. General Ethan reiterates the commitment of 7 Division to ensuring safety of lives and property of all citizens within its area of responsibility," he said.

Our correspondents report that the statement by the military came less than 20 hours after suspected insurgents attacked Damaturu, the Yobe State capital where many people were killed and properties destroyed.

It is not yet clear whether the insurgents killed were among those that launched the attacks in Damaturu, but the villages where the ground and aerial operations took place are less than 100 kilometres away from Damaturu.

Last week, the military said 37 insurgents were killed a separate airstrike.

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