

SOLDIERS KILL 8 INSURGENTS IN BORNO



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Troops from the 7 Division of the Nigerian Army on Friday discovered some suspected members of Boko Haram who were burying their colleagues in a village in Borno State and succeeded in killing many, spokesman of the Division, Colonel Mohammed Dole said in a statement yesterday.

Though no actual figure of the insurgents killed was given, Dole said the Boko Haram fighters were killed following aerial reconnaissance.

The spokesman added that out of desperation, the Boko Haram insurgents were forcing youths to join them and are also abducting women.

According to the statement, "Air bombardment of insurgents' hideouts in Mainok and Mada general areas of Kaga and Konduga LGAs by the Nigerian Air Force claimed the lives of some Boko Haram Terrorists. The terrorists were seen conducting burial funeral for their dead members around Mudube village."

Similarly, the spokesman said eight members of the Boko Haram were also killed in a separate incident on Friday along Maiduguri- Bama road following a clash with military operatives.

"Troops of 7 Division had an encounter with Boko Haram insurgents along Maiduguri-Bama-Gwoza road for two hours during which 8 Boko Haram Terrorists were killed, 3 Vehicles and 3 AK 47 rifles were burnt, while scores of others fled with various degrees of injuries.

"Recently, due to increased offensive operations by ground and air against the terrorists, the attacks resulted in serious decimation of Boko Haram fighters.

"This forced them to embark on forceful conscription of youths and abduction of women from vulnerable villages into their folds. The troops are on their trail to ensure safe release of these captives," the statement said.

Some drivers who arrived the scene of the encounter later told newsmen in Maiduguri that the insurgents had mounted a roadblock near Ngauramari village but troops of the 7 Division of the Nigerian Army arrived the scene and succeeded in killing three of them and thereafter pursued the fleeing ones and killed 22.

Some of the witnesses said as much as 25 insurgents were killed.

A driver, Kaumi Mukhtar who was on his way to Maiduguri from Bama said the incident happened around 9 a.m.

"I saw three corpses of Boko Haram fighters in the pool of their blood by the roadside. I also saw some of their motorcycles. Some soldiers who were keeping watch at the scene checked my vehicle and passengers and then told us to proceed with our journey," he said.

Another driver who did not want his name in print said he passed the scene around 11a.m. "While in Bama, we saw military aircraft moving north of Ngauramari and before we left the park, stories filtered that 22 insurgents were killed near a river," he said.

A third driver, Musama Ali said he and his passengers escaped by the whiskers when another set of insurgents defied the measures put in place by the military and re-appeared on the Bama-Maiduguri road around 4 p.m.

"I got passengers around 3.30 p.m and headed towards Maiduguri but we were unfortunately attacked by the terrorists. I summoned courage and kept on speeding but one of the bullets they were firing at us brushed the head of one of my passengers. We thank God he is still alive but I am afraid some vehicles behind us may not be lucky," he said.

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