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SECURITY FORCES REPEL ATTACK ON BAMA, NGUROSOME, KILL 18

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The Defence Headquarters in Abuja yesterday said security forces prevented terrorists from attacking communities around Bama and Ngurosoye in Borno State at the weekend.

A statement from the Director of Defence Information, Major General Chris Olukolade, said: "Troops on patrol during the weekend dislodged a band of terrorists who were about to attack some settlements on the outskirts of Bama and Ngurosoye."

He said 18 terrorists were killed in the clash. 16 burnt AK 47 rifles were found in the debris while five pick-up vans, seven Gulf cars and one Hillux truck were destroyed.

General Olukolade said 75 villagers were screened and released in the course of cordon and search in the adjoining communities.

He noted that an alleged bomb attack on a market in the area as reported in the media was yet to be verified by yesterday.

Olukolade also said 16 AK47 rifles were recovered in the course of the cordon and search of communities during related counter-insurgency operations.

He explained that mop-up operations were ongoing on the Mandara mountains and Haraza hills.

"Troops eventually overrun camps on the outskirts of Gombole, Mele, Kecheri, Duffada, Yuwe, and others around Mandara mountains and Sambisa forests after stiff resistance," he said.

"Many terrorists died in the encounter while a soldier lost his life and five others were wounded," he added.

The Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) has also stepped up patrols of the banks of Lake Chad as well as surrounding communities in addition to air surveillance and patrols designed to smoke out remnants of the terrorists, the statement said.

Olukolade further said air raids on some camps sited on Islands have also recorded successes in dislodging the terrorists located there.

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