

SOLDIERS KILL SUSPECTED BOKO HARAM MEMBERS IN KATSINA

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Soldiers have shot dead two suspected members of the Boko Haram sect in the Katsina State capital in a gun-battle in the early hours of yesterday, witnesses said. The incident which took place at Filin Polo, an area in the metropolis, saw the exchange of fire between the soldiers and four suspected members of the sect.

One of the suspects was said to have escaped while the other was later apprehended in the company of an undisclosed number of women and children.

Witnesses said the suspects were trailed from Kano to Katsina where they rented the uncompleted apartment they were holed up. One witness said: "We heard shots early this morning and we initially thought it was some sort of military exercise. Normally the soldiers announce when such exercises would be carried out before they commence; but this time around the shots sounded very close so it made us to believe it was something else."

Weekly Trust reports that soldiers who had earlier cordoned off the area to ensure security of lives and property, left a few hours later after the tension had died down. Confirming the incident, the commanding officer of 35 Battalion, Col. Alhassan Grema, said his men acted on information received on the hideout of suspects.

Meanwhile, heavy security presence was noticed around the Katsina central market area yesterday with gates leading into it under lock and key. The market was however opened to business later, with traders and buyers allowed to come go in on foot or on motorcycles.

Several trucks that conveyed goods meant to the market were diverted and asked to offload outside the market premises. Sources told Weekly Trust that the development may be related to this week's incident in Jos, the Plateau State, where the market was hit by twin explosions.

Spokesman for the Katsina State police command, DSP Abubakar Sadiq, did not confirm the incident but referred the reporter to a different source who declined to comment.



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