

THE WORLD NEWS II

Two soldiers feared dead in B/Haram ambush

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Gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram members ambushed soldiers from the 7 Division of the Nigerian Army who were on their way to Damboa, 85 kilometers from Maiduguri, yesterday.

Sources said two soldiers were feared killed while some of them were injured.

"The soldiers were ambushed near Kwamala village after Dalwa. They were a few kilometers to Bulabulin. Our colleagues had to return to Maiduguri after a fierce exchange with the terrorists," a military source said.

The soldiers were returning to their base in Damboa after vacating the 195 battalion last Friday, following their encounter with Boko Haram insurgents that led to the killing of 53 terrorists, 15 soldiers and their commanding officer as well as four policemen and the Divisional Police Officer.

Before their departure yesterday, there was disquiet in Maiduguri over the of some soldiers and policemen to return to Damboa, Alagarno and other locations termed as "Red Spots" or "Dead Zones" following incessant encounters with Boko Haram insurgents. Sources within the military and police said since Friday's encounter in Damboa, security operatives deserted the town.

DSP Gideon Jibrin, spokesman of the Borno State Police command, said he was not aware of any resistance to return to Damboa. But a military source said: "Most of those that were asked to go to Damboa and other places declined. They said they would not go until the right thing is done which is providing requisite equipment to fight. You can call this mutiny or anything but this is the true situation".

A soldier who escaped from the attack said they were yet to return to their duty posts.

"We killed many terrorists but they ultimately overran our facility because they had more sophisticated equipment and outnumbered us. We had to flee and most of us are here in Maiduguri. Our GOC directed us to go back since Monday but we refused. We insisted that we will not go and get wasted. We only have Ak47 rifles to fight with while the terrorists have anti-aircraft missiles", he said. In another development, three passengers died Tuesday when suspected members of the Boko Haram ambushed two buses after chasing away villagers in Kwatara and Takaskala villages in Gwoza LGA of Borno State, witnesses said.

It was gathered that four other passengers, including the driver of one of the buses sustained serious wounds while travelling to Mubi in Adamawa State.

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