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SOLDIERS BEAT BACK B/HARAM IN DAMBOA, KILL 35

Category: **News** Published on Tuesday, 21 October 2014 05:00
Written by Hamza Idris, Maiduguri Hits: 1530

Boko Haram insurgents Sunday night suffered another heavy defeat in the hands of soldiers in Damboa, Borno State, Daily Trust gathered yesterday.

Credible sources said troops from the 195 Battalion of the 7 Division of the Nigerian Army engaged the insurgents when they arrived Damboa in a convoy.

"I am glad to inform you that many insurgents were killed in Damboa and others were seriously injured. And most importantly, we did not lose any of our troops," a senior security officer said.

Another military source said some rocket propelled grenades, general purpose machine guns, sizeable number of AK47 rifles, improvised explosive devices and assorted ammunitions were seized from the insurgents.

"We roundly defeated them...in fact, we seized a Buffalo truck, a jeep and some vehicles. We also pursued those who fled and killed many of them in the bush," he said.

A government official told our correspondent that about 35 bodies of the insurgents were retrieved yesterday while many of them escaped with bullet wounds.

"So far, soldiers and youth vigilantes, also known as civilian JTF, have recovered the corpses of at least 35 insurgents and more are being retrieved from the bushes. They approached Damboa from Bale, a village that leads to the Sambisa Forest but they were ambushed by the soldiers. There was no destruction of any property in Damboa because the soldiers did not allow them to approach the town," the official said.

The fight in Damboa started around 7pm Sunday and lasted till early Monday, witnesses said. The insurgents earlier met resistance from troops at Sabon Gida village along Biu road. Boko Haram insurgents had taken over Damboa in July but troops recaptured it in the first week of August.

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