

## FLEEING RESIDENTS: INSURGENTS KILL OVER 200 KILLED IN DAMASAK



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Fleeing residents from Damasak, farming and fishing community in northern part of Borno State, yesterday said Boko Haram insurgents have killed over 200 persons in the town in the last 10 days. Damasak was few weeks ago taken over by the insurgents but were chased away two days after. But residents said 10 days ago, the assailants mobilized to Damasak once again where they engaged on a killing spree after a failed attempt by troops to subdue them.

"Damasak is now a slaughter slab of the Boko Haram because they are in control of the town after killing over 200 people," a senior council official, who craved for anonymity because of his safety, said.

"Personally, I and my family were trapped in our house for days. They killed most of the youths and the old in the town.

"However, the sad aspect is that they don't even allow proper burial for the deceased, they simply threw the corpses into the Kumadugu-Yobe River," the official, who arrived Maiduguri yesterday, said.

He added that it took him four days to get to Maiduguri after taking refuge in Niger Republic.

"I had to swim through four different rivers along the borders between Nigeria and Niger while my male children escaped through the bushes. At present, there is serious humanitarian crisis in Damasak," he said. Another source said Nigerian troops in collaboration with youth vigilantes had attempted reclaiming Damasak last Monday but the attack on Damaturu, the state capital obstructed the plan.

"Troops and the civilian JTF had actually mobilized towards Damasak with an arrangement that a fighter jet will provide aerial reconnaissance," the source said.

"But sadly, there was another attack in Damaturu which engaged the attention of the available fighter jets for hours.

"That notwithstanding, troops depleted the terrorists significantly by killing many of them though an army officer and four vigilantes also lost their lives," he said.

He said Nigerian security forces withdrew from the fight when they ran out of ammunitions, following a fierce encounter with the terrorist who are now holding sway at the town.

"For now, the insurgents are in absolute control of Damasak," he said. There was no official statement on affairs in Damasak either from the police or the police at the time of filing this report.

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