

# CAMEROONIAN TROOPS KILL OVER 150 INSURGENTS IN BAMA



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Cameroonian gendarmes on Friday pursued suspected Boko Haram militants to Bama town in central part of Borno State, killing over 150, sources and fleeing residents said.

Many Boko Haram fighters were injured in the attack.

Sunday Trust gathered that incarcerated residents, including women and children, escaped from the militants' cell to Maiduguri, during the fight.

Bama, the second business hub in Borno State was taken over by the Boko Haram insurgents September and had remained under their control since then.

Our correspondent learnt that fighting between troops from Cameroon and the insurgents in Bama lasted from 6pm on Friday to the early hours of yesterday.

The insurgents had earlier reportedly attacked some villages in the northern part of Cameroon but were immediately repelled by the country's troops.

"After serious fight across the border, the Cameroonian gendarmes got reinforcement and somehow overpowered the militants, forcing them to retreat back to their base in Bama, here in Nigeria," a senior local vigilante, who does not want his name mentioned, said.

"But the soldiers from Cameroon did not relent; they vigorously pursued the insurgents up to Bama where a fresh fight that lasted till today (Saturday) broke out.

"Our members and Nigerian troops that were keeping vigil in Konduga heard sound of blasts and anti-aircraft rifles. In fact, some of the fleeing Boko Haram members in Bama were intercepted at Kawuri while making attempts to escape," he said.

Borno State shares a long and porous international border with Cameroon, Niger and Chad, paving way for free entry and exit between citizens of the four countries living around towns and villages in places like Bama, Gwoza, Gamboru Ngala, Abadam, Mobbar among others.

There was no official confirmation of the incident from both the police and the army in Borno State at the time of filing this report.

But Barrister Jibrin Gunda, the legal adviser of the youth vigilantes, also known as Civilian JTF in Borno State, confirmed the incident in a telephone chat yesterday.

"Yes, there was serious fight between soldiers from Cameroon and the Boko Haram insurgents in Bama and the fact is there is nothing unusual about it.

"The Cameroonian gendarmes pursued the insurgents from their own [country] as part of a bilateral agreement. Remember that a multi-lateral agreement on counter-terrorism has been signed between Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon. Part of the agreement is that once troops from any of the countries are engaging the insurgents, they should pursue them to the last point.

"This is exactly what the Cameroonian troops did on Friday," he said.

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