



OVER 2000 BOKO HARAM FIGHTERS INVADE BORNO TOWN



Category: News Published on Saturday, 25 April 2015 05:00 Written by Hamza Idris, Maiduguri Hits: 14570

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Over 2,000 Boko Haram fighters reportedly took over Marte, a border town between Nigeria and Cameroon in northern part of Borno State on Thursday, sources said yesterday.

Sitting on the western coast of Lake Chad, this is the third time insurgents will take over Marte. They first took it over in 2012 but were chased out by Nigerian troops shortly after the declaration of state of emergency in 2013.

The terrorists also took over the town in 2014 during their territorial conquest of various towns and villages but were again forced out before the recent elections.

Security sources and residents of Kirenowa, the major town in Marte, said the insurgents invaded the town from various locations and succeeded in dislodging Nigerian troops stationed in the area.

Abba Yusuf, a resident of Kirenowa told our correspondent that the insurgents killed unspecified number of people and destroyed some structures.

"They really wreaked havoc in Kirenowa and environs this time around when peace was returning and our people have started coming back. They killed unsuspecting residents and destroyed many buildings like the local government secretariat," Yusuf said.

Another resident, Mukhtar Ibrahim, said troops engaged the insurgents throughout Thursday.

"The fighting continued till early today (Friday) when the soldiers retreated. The town has fallen and insurgents are fully in charge, they are more than 2000 in number," Ibrahim said.

He added that some of the insurgents have advanced towards Monguno, a garrison town which once fell to the Boko Haram fighters but was recovered by Nigerian troops.

A security source who asked not to be named confirmed that large number of Boko Haram fighters thronged Marte.

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