

# 2 killed as troops dislodge insurgents from Damaturu-Maiduguri road

From Misbahu Bashir,  
Maiduguri

Soldiers on Sunday prevented Boko Haram fighters from mounting a barricade on Damaturu-Maiduguri highway in Borno State.

The soldiers reportedly engaged the insurgents in a gun battle around Mainok and Jakana towns.

A commercial driver told Daily Trust that the incident happened shortly after the usual daily road closure was eased in the morning.

Troops usually closed the road in the evening and opened it at 7am

daily.

The driver said suspected insurgents who were about to mount road barricades and attack travellers were overpowered and driven away by soldiers.

"We were on our way to Maiduguri after spending the night in Damaturu when we were stopped by soldiers at a place after Mainok.

"We were earlier asked to turn back but later allowed to stay there. We later heard gunfire exchange. We were asked to proceed after about 35 minutes," he said.

He said extra patrols were stationed along the

road.

However, a military source later said two of the attackers were killed while the remaining ones who fled were suspected to be hiding in the bushes.

He said that "soldiers have gone after them."

Boko Haram has made life distressful for those who ply the route. It was on the route that a bride was abducted last week but freed 24 hours after.

Before decorating the new service chiefs on Friday, President Muhammadu Buhari gave them a deadline to tackle the widespread insecurity in the country.