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ARMY KILLS 21 TERROR SUSPECTS

Category: National Published: Saturday, 26 October 2013 20:32 Written by From Njadvara Musa, Damaturu



THE spokesman of the 3 Division Special Operation Battalion in Yobe State, Capt. Eli Lazarus, said 21 suspected Boko Haram gunmen were killed on Thursday in multiple attacks on police and military formations that lasted over eight hours in Damaturu, the state capital.

Lazarus, in a statement to newsmen in Damaturu on Friday said three vehicles were also recovered from the insurgents during gun battles in various parts of Damaturu, including the mobile police barracks.

Other arms and ammunitions recovered from the insurgents, according to the statement include: four Kalashnikov rifles, an FN Rifle, a Rocket Propelled Grenade and one Rocket Propelled Grenade Bomb (RPG), an extra barrel of General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG), several Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and 709 rounds of assorted ammunition.

The statement reads in part: "The 24-hour curfew earlier imposed on the state is to enable security forces conduct pursuit on the fleeing terrorists. Residents are advised to abide with curfew time and divulge relevant information to security agents for the restoration of peace in the state."

Witnesses, however, said that the insurgents torched the official resident of the commandant of Mopol 41, Damaturu, among other houses at the Mopol barracks before carting away arms and ammunition from the police armoury.

Other areas destroyed according to an eyewitness include: the Police Criminal Investigative Department (CID), as well as the area command, located near the central roundabout of Damaturu, the state capital.

The Guardian also gathered that some officers and men, as well as their wives and children at the Yobe State Police Command were feared killed in the attack at the Mobile Police base, as RPG was launched into the residences of policemen.

Hospital sources also confirmed that suspected insurgents went away with two ambulances of the Sani Abacha General Hospital Damaturu as well as assorted drugs during the coordinated attack.