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Troops, insurgents clash in captured Borno town

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Maiduguri

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TROOPS of the 7 Division of the Nigerian Army on Monday clashed with suspected members of the Boko Haram sect at Mainari village in Konduga Local Government of Borno State.

According to military and local sources, many of the terrorists as well as some

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members of the youth vigilante groups and security personnel were killed.

The Guardian learnt that dozens of soldiers, supported with about 55 members of the Civilian Joint Task Force

(CJTF) trooped to Bama to reclaim the captured town which was attacked on September 1, 2014 by insurgents, during which the troops and vigilante youths were ambushed.

Barka Umar of CJTF, in a telephone interview, yesterday said: "Our encounter with the insurgents in the clash was a bad outing," stressing that those soldiers had to retreat when it was evident that moving towards the battle front would not yield defeat of the terrorists.

A security officer, who craved anonymity, said: "Our troops were on their way to Bama which has been under the control of the Boko Haram when this clash ensued on Monday evening. Honestly speaking, our soldiers were well prepared and had the weapons to confront the terrorists, but sadly, things went awry midway to reclaim the

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border town.”

A youth vigilante, Musa Aliyu said their members participated in the attempt to capture Bama that was attacked last September. He said the insurgents carted away arms and ammunition and went back to where they came from.

It was learnt that there was a sizeable military formation at Kawuri village, about 40 kilometers to Bama, the captured border town.

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