

# Vigilance group kills 29 suspected B'Haram insurgents

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**E**VEN as the military continue their offensive against Boko Haram insurgents in their Sambisa Forest hideout of Borno and Adamawa states, members of Volunteer Vigilante Group clashed with fleeing terrorists in the Hiang-Kukuriyi forest axis and killed 29 suspects at a fish farm on Wednesday by 10.14pm.

The killing of terror suspects, according to the commander of Vigilante Group, Madu Plungwa, was successful because the fleeing insurgents numbering over three dozens in a convoy of Toyota Hilux vehicles and motorcycles stopped at a fish farm to drink and eat, before proceeding towards the border areas of Yobe and Gombe.

"The fleeing insurgents were ambushed at this fish farm when they stopped to refuel and eat roasted fish on the farm. As some of them relaxed, five hunters,

- Jonathan promises to sustain war against terror
- ICRC, Red Cross donate to hundreds found in Sambisa

who have taken strategic positions near the fish farm, opened fire at them and killed 29 in the exchange of gunfire. Some were however, able to flee in the same vehicles with gunshot wounds," said Plungwa in a telephone interview with *The Guardian* yesterday in Maiduguri.

He said the insurgents were fleeing towards the south and southeast flanks of Sambisa Forest, so that they could get access to Yobe and Gombe escape forest routes. "The fleeing insurgents were desperate to escape, because most of them have run out of arms and ammunitions, which they used to attack various towns and villages in Borno and Adamawa states," said the vigilante leader.

Borno Police Command yesterday confirmed the clash between fleeing insurgents and local hunters near Hiang in Hawul council

area.

"I cannot provide details of casualties, but when our DPO submits his report on the security situation today or tomorrow (Friday), the command will brief the press," said the police source.

Meanwhile, President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday vowed that government would not relent in the war against the insurgency until the country was safe for all.

Jonathan made this declaration in a message to the newly inducted Batch 'A' members of the National Youth Service Corps deployed in Rivers State. President Jonathan, who expressed delight in the performance of the military in the ongoing battle against Boko Haram, said they (military) have displayed a high level of patriotism.

In a related development, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

and the Nigerian Red Cross have delivered aid to a group of 275 people, mainly women and children, who had been found in Sambisa forest, in north-east Nigeria.

The group was found during military operations in the region last week.

The group was taken to a camp in the town of Yola yesterday to receive clothing, bed-sheets, jerri cans and hygiene articles. The ICRC also provided medical supplies to the federal hos-

pital in Yola to help treat the wounded and sick.

President Jonathan expressed confidence that the incoming administration of General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), would sustain the support given to corps members in order to achieve the objectives of the scheme.

## Obanikoro lists ECOWAS' achievements at 40

Two Nigerians appointed honorary consuls in Mexico, Cote d'Ivoire

From John Okeke and  
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**A**S the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) clocked 40 years, Minister of State II for Foreign Affairs, Senator Musiliu Mohammed Obanikoro has listed peace as the greatest among other achievements the sub-regional body has recorded in its over four (4) decades of existence.

Obanikoro, who made the disclosure yesterday in Gombe State at the opening session of the media sensi-

tization Programme to flag-off ECOWAS 40th anniversary with the theme "role of the media in deepening Democracy and De-escalating violent conflicts," said peace was a pre-requisite for sustainable development in the sub-region.

According to him, I strongly have the opinion that community citizens should be proud of the many achievements recorded by ECOWAS commission so far.

"In the area of peace support operations and the fights against trans-national organised crimes, the sub-

region has not only recorded commendable results but has also developed models that have remained point of reference for other Regional Economic Co-operation (REC)," he said.

Meanwhile, two Nigerians have been appointed as honorary consuls in Mexico and Cote d'Ivoire. Mr. John Olatunde Ayeni, a Nigerian businessman who was appointed as Honorary Consul General of Cote d'Ivoire while another businessman Adebayo Abayomi Adeyemo presented his letter of Commission as the Honorary Consul of Mexico to Nigeria. Ayeni's appointment was in recognition of his contribution towards improved business relations between both countries.

