

2 One soldier killed, three injured in Taraba ambush

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ARMED men, yesterday, ambushed and killed one soldier in Kofai-Amadu community of Takum Local Council of Taraba State.

The assailants reportedly shot three other soldiers.

Confirming the report to *The Guardian*, the Chairman of Takum Local Council, Shiban Tikari, said Tiv militiamen ambushed the soldiers, who were deployed to the area to check activities of hoodlums.

The attack came few days after the gruesome murder of a mobile policeman attached to 67 Mobile Police Squadron situated in Takum.

This April alone, *The Guardian* findings showed that hoodlums terrorising the southern part of Taraba

Ortom praised over recovery of slain soldiers' weapons

killed several security personnel. The area, which is made up of Takum, Wukari, Ibi, Donga, Ussa as well as the Yangtu Special Development Area, has not known peace.

At press time, residents were running for dear lives, in case of reprisal attack from the soldiers, whom *The Guardian* learnt had been combing the community.

Some residents disclosed via telephone of their plans not to sleep in the village till things normalise.

AT the from Benue State Security Council/Stakeholders meeting yesterday, Governor Samuel Ortom was commended for ensuring the recovery of 11 of the 12 weapons taken away from the murdered soldiers by

Bonta militia in Konshisha Local Council of the state.

Benue, in a communiqué signed by the Secretary of the State Government (SSG), Prof. Anthony Ijohor, condemned any form of attack on security agencies and resolved that those involved in the killing of the soldiers must be arrested and prosecuted.

While urging traditional rulers and other stakeholders to ensure that the remaining weapon taken is returned, Benue communities were warned against harbouring criminals and always report suspicious persons in their midst to security agencies.

They mandated Ortom to lead a delegation to condole with President Muhammadu Buhari over

the killing of the soldiers and thank him for his patience and understanding

Also, the meeting recommended that security be provided for traditional rulers to enable them discharge their duties effectively at the grassroots level, and that other stakeholders should support security agencies through intelligence gathering.

It tasked leaders at all levels to synergise in the fight against criminality in the state and cautioned politicians against the use of thugs to harass opponents.

On the proliferation of illegal revenue checkpoints across the state, the meeting called for the immediate dismantling of such and called for restructuring and devolution of powers, as well as a review of the revenue sharing formula.