

Gun duel claims 2 in Kaduna

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SOLDIERS deployed to maintain the peace in Kaduna metropolis and its environs at the weekend engaged unidentified gunmen believed to be terrorists in a gun battle in Rigasa area of the metropolis, leading to the death of a soldier and one of the suspected terrorists.

The soldiers on night patrol in the area were said to have run into the hideout of the suspected terrorists at about 8.30 pm Saturday night and opened fire on them.

The Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, 1 Mechanised Division, Nigerian Army, Kaduna, Colonel Sani Usman confirmed the incident, saying that his men battled the alleged terrorists for almost two hours.

The suspected terrorist group, *Daily Independent* gathered, was said to have earlier killed the village Head of Sabon Gari, Rigasa, Alhaji Muhammed Jibrin on Friday night for allegedly "exposing them to police scrutiny" by allegedly asking the state government to deploy more security to the area.

As at the time of filing this report, many residents of Rigasa were on self-imposed curfew for fear of possible attacks, with the usually calm vicinity now said to be deserted.

Sources also hinted *Daily Independent* that scores of the suspected terrorists were wounded by the soldiers, and are currently receiving medical attention at undisclosed Hospital in Kaduna.

It would be recalled that the Nigerian Army warned the people in Rigasa area about a month ago that if the killings of security men continued, the entire community would be overrun by the Army.

Addressing stakeholders of the community at a peace meeting about a month ago, the Sector Commander, Rigasa Rapid Strike Force, Lt. Colonel Ismail Dapo Oloyede said the Army was disappointed by the perennial killings in the area after he had rated the place before his boss as a peaceful place to reside.