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High calibre bomb factory discovered in Kano

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•Army kills five Ombatse militiamen in Nasarawa

By **Danjuma Ogwu Muhammed** / *Lafia*

The Joint Security Task Force (JTF) in Kano State said on Wednesday it discovered a high calibre bomb factory suspected to belong to the Boko Haram insurgent group at Gunduwawa village in Gezawa Local Government area of the state.



Commander, 3 Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Kano, Iliyasu Abba, a Brigadier General, disclosed this to newsmen at a press briefing in Kano on Wednesday.

Abba said the discovery was made on Tuesday at about 2.00 a.m. during an operation by a combined team of the JTF troops and the Department of State Services (DSS) operatives.

“At about 2.00 a.m. on October 8, a combined team of the JTF troops and Department of State Services (DSS) raided two Boko Haram terrorists’ hideouts at Gunduwawa village in Gezawa Local Government Area.

“The raid, which was conducted following a lead on intelligence reports, made no arrests, as the terrorists fled the village on the approach of the JTF troops and DSS personnel,” he said.

Abba, however, said one person who was believed to be the son of the owner of the house was killed during the operation.

According to him, the deceased was said to have rented the house to the fleeing terrorists.

Abba said the team was also able to recover weapons, working

tools and materials used for making improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

He added that they recovered one assault rifle, two AK58 rifle magazines with 193 rounds of 5.56mm ammunition, and one AK 47 rifle magazine with 107 rounds of 7.62mm (special) ammunition and bows and arrows.

Others are three primed cylinders of IEDs, one primed explosive suicide backpack, 18 empty IED cylinders, 24 detonators, and small bag of fertiliser and IED timers.

The rest are cortex wires and three remote control devices, five Motorola hand held radios, four communicators, six alarm clocks, two cartons of 9-volt batteries, a scale, one external hard drive and one heavy duty charger/battery.

“These weapons, ammunition and other dangerous materials were meant to wreak havoc on Kano during the Eid-el-Kabir and other festivities before the end of the year.”

The Commander urged members of the public to continue to cooperate with the JTF operatives in its effort to curb the activities of terrorists in the state.

Another report from Lafia said at least five members of the Ombatse militia group have been killed by soldiers deployed to maintain law and order in the troubled Nasarawa State.

They were said to have been killed in a gun duel with troops who were on patrol in Asakio town and Obi Local Government area respectively.

Sources said an argument had ensued between troops who were on patrol in the areas and Ombatse members dressed in their usual black T-shirts, beret and magical rings.

A military source told Daily Independent on Wednesday: “They engaged us and even opened fire on us, but we demystified them and gunned them down.”

President General of the Eggon Cultural Development association (ECDA), Chris Maman, confirmed the development to Daily Independent but denied that the youths were killed by soldiers.

The tensed security situation in the state has led to postponement of the local government elections scheduled to be conducted in December.