

28 Killed, 83 Wounded As Troops Clash With Boko Haram In Maiduguri

By **Sunny Nwankwo** - April 3, 2018

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Victims of Boko Haram Sunday night attack at Bale-Shuwa, Bale-Kanuri and Alkaramti communities receiving treatment at the Specialist Hospital in Maiduguri, Borno State on Monday. PHOTO: NAN

Maiduguri – Twenty-eight persons, including 13 Boko Haram terrorists, 14 civilians, and a soldier, were killed at an outskirt of Maiduguri metropolis when a group of insurgents and suicide bombers attempted to infiltrate the city on Easter Sunday evening.

Eighty-three others, mostly residents of Bille Shuwa and Alikanranti villages, were wounded in the clash which started about 8.10pm.

The incident caused serious pandemonium as residents fled towards Giwa Military Barracks which was a stone's throw from the scene of the attack.

Residents were held in fear all through the night as gunshots and explosions rock the city.

Colonel Onyema Nwachukwu, Deputy Director, Public Relations, Theatre Command, 'Operation Lafiya Dole', confirmed the attacks in a statement on Monday.

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Nwachukwu stated, "Troops of 'Operation Lafiya Dole' deployed in the Cashew Plantation around Bille Shuwa and Alikaranti villages have quashed an attempt by Boko Haram terrorists to penetrate Maiduguri metropolis yesterday at about 8.10pm.

"The insurgents met with stiff resistance of troops who killed 6 of the insurgents and neutralised seven suicide bombers in the encounter.

"The troops also recovered 2 AK47 rifles and 2 magazines.

"The Nigerian Police Explosive Ordnance Disposal team has detonated two IED vests recovered from the killed suicide bombers beaten by the troops and unable to force their way into the metropolis.

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"The insurgents retreated and callously resorted to attacking locals who, reacting to the encounter, were fleeing in confusion from Bille Shuwa and Alkaranti villages with person-borne improvised explosive device.

"Sadly, 15 persons, including a soldier, have so far been confirmed dead in the encounter, while about 83 persons who suffered various degrees of injuries are receiving due medical attention.

"Troops are still on the trail of the insurgents. More details will be communicated as further clarifications are made.

"Meanwhile, a 14-year-old Boko Haram insurgent, Rawa Babagana, has surrendered to troops of 'Operation Lafiya Dole'.