

happens if the troops are withdrawn and these Boko Haram terrorists stage a comeback? And the opposition may use the National Assembly to stall further extension. This is the situation but, before the week runs out, there would be a way out," the source said. "Although the emergency rule expires this weekend, the troops may still be asked to remain. The president would ask the National Assembly to extend the emergency rule and, until the National Assembly decides, the troops remain."

Another source argued that it's the failure of the Presidency and the National Assembly to suspend the democratic structures in the three states that is making the situation difficult: "If the emergency rule order had suspended the governors and the House of Assembly in each of the three states as it was done during the Obasanjo regime, things would have been different. All these people asking the military to go would have been seen cooperating with the Presidency to ensure the war is over on time. If the military is asked to stop fighting the insurgents, who would do it? Is it the police?"

All attempts made to speak with the director of Information for the Defence Headquarters, Major General Chris Olukolade, failed.

Military recovers stolen arms, livestock

The military assault on camps of armed militiamen in Kaduna and Plateau states has led to the recovery of arms and some stolen livestock.

Soldiers have been drafted to quell attacks of militia men who have been killing innocent people in Plateau, Benue and Kaduna states. The operations in Dahia Luka, Makera and some communities in Plateau and Kaduna states resulted in the arrest of three wounded armed men after the encounter in which some of them died.

Over 90 cows and 45 sheep believed to have been rustled were also recovered, in addition to weapons. About 50 other cows have also been recovered from rustlers who attacked herdsmen in another location.

The recovered cows have been handed over to the traditional rulers in the area while the arrested armed men are still being interrogated.

According to a statement issued and signed by Major General Olukolade, "the herdsmen who were wounded by the rustlers are also being treated. Altogether, 6 rifles, 25 dane guns and 10 locally fabricated pistols as well as 4 revolvers were recovered in encounters with militias in parts of Plateau and Kaduna states".

The statement further disclosed that traditional rulers in the areas have been cautioned against shielding or harbouring armed gangs in the precinct of their domain in view of the security implications to their communities and the nation at large.

"Armed gangs have been engaging troops in gun battle as the forests are being combed for remnants of criminal elements who have been wreaking havoc in various communities of the North-Central," the military stated. "In the process of cordon-and-search, "various rifle parts as well as empty ammunition boxes were recovered in Shendam, Yelwa and the house of a suspected arms dealer at the border between Plateau and Taraba states. The arrested suspects are among those being interrogated by the Special Task Force. Also, one of the militiamen arrested in the outskirts of Jos is already helping with information on his links with terrorists operating in other parts of the country."

On the north-east campaign, the military disclosed that terrorists are being dislodged in the air and land raids while those dislodged are attacking travellers and some communities. The statement also disclosed how the troops repelled some terrorists at the weekend: "In the meantime, the counter-terrorist campaign in the North-East has continued amidst a series of encounters as identified make-shift camps of the terrorists are being dislodged in the ongoing air and land raids in forest and mountain locations. The presence of famished and unarmed members of the terrorist groups wandering around has been noted in some villages.

"Armed terrorists have however continued to carry out snap attacks on travellers on highways especially between Maiduguri-Damboa as well as Gwoza-Bama highways while others make occasional attacks on surrounding villages, looting especially food items.

"Some have been attacking soft targets in Borno and Yobe states apparently in retaliation for casualties incurred in their camps as a result of land and air assaults. Troops also repelled a weekend attack on Bunu Gari Market and no life was lost.

"Troops have been directed to maintain the aggressive patrols of the local communities to complement the assault on the terrorists."

Gunmen kill monarch, 37 others in Borno villages

Gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram terrorists had, in the early hours of Sunday, attacked Kaigamari village in Konduga local government area of Borno State and killed seven people including the village head, security sources said.

This occurred as gunmen were attacking Ngoshe-Sama village in Gwoza local government area of the state, where they killed over 30 residents.

The gunmen who attacked Ngoshe-Sama village invaded the town at about 7pm and continued to operate up to the time of filing this report.

A serving council member of Gwoza local government who craved anonymity said, "The whole of Ngoshe-Sama has been burnt down and the people have fled; over 30 people have been killed so far; they are still there as I am talking to you now."

A senior security operative in Maiduguri, who spoke with LEADERSHIP off the record, said the village head of Kaigamari, Bulama Kaigamari, was shot dead alongside six other villagers when the gunmen attacked about 2am.

"The gunmen went directly to the home of the village head, shot him dead and set his house ablaze, before attacking other villagers," said