

## **Boko Haram leader Shekau's associate found dead, says Defence Hqtrs**

Gbade Ogunwale, Abuja

The Defence Headquarters yesterday said an unnamed associate of Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau, has been found dead.

Director of Defence Information, Brig.-Gen. Chris Olukolade said the alleged terror agent was found dead by the Special Forces in the vicinity of Lake Chad.

There is however no independent confirmation of the claim as reporters have no access to the battle front.

Brig.-Gen. Olukolade added that two other suspected terrorists who were found at the scene were arrested. They are currently in the custody of the Multinational Joint Task Force.

He said the three suspects were confirmed to have operated in Baga, one of the Boko Haram operational bases in Borno State.

According to the military, the terrorists were in the process of crossing the border to Niger Republic when they met their ill fate.

Brig.-Gen. Olukolade stated that more troops of the Nigeria Police Mobile Force have joined the operations by the Special Forces, as more towns are being secured in the operations to rid the nation of terrorist activities.

"A terrorist believed to be a close associate of insurgents' leader, Abubakar Shekau has been found dead as he ran errand for the leadership. The other two fellow terrorists, one of which is confirmed to be a Nigerien, are now in the custody of the Multinational Joint Task Force.

"The three were in the process of crossing the border to the neighbouring Niger Republic through the Lake Chad. The three have been confirmed to have operated in Baga and participated in perpetrating arson and other atrocities around the vicinity of the town.

"They have been relocating from place to place since they left Baga last month", the statement added.