

There were consecutive attacks by Boko Haram in Bia and

a year ago.

Sect slits throats of 12

BOKO Haram militants have slit the throats of 12 people in Gwoza, Borno State, as the army was trying to evacuate civilians from the area, a military source and a witness said yesterday.

The terror group has been driven out of much of the huge swathe of territory it controlled at the start of the year, thanks to a concerted push by troops from Nigeria and neighbours Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

Gwoza, in mountainous terrain, was one of the last places to fall, on March 27, and there remain pockets of Boko Haram activity in the area, security sources say.

"Just as troops were trying to evacuate some civilians from the hills so as to safeguard them from a planned air strike ... some Boko Haram attacked them and slit the throats of 12 people," a military source said of Wednesday's attack.

A witness, Jonas Musa, told Reuters his parents were both among the victims. He said soldiers had moved one wave of people from the hills around Gwoza, but before they could go back for the second, the attackers struck.

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