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Boko Haram

Boko Haram kills two soldiers in Baga rocket attack

Posted by: Our Reporter in [Featured](#), [News](#) ① 9 hours ago

Two soldiers were killed in a Boko Haram rocket attack on a military vehicle in Borno State town of Baga, residents told French News Agency (AFP) yesterday.

Six other soldiers and a civilian vigilante were critically injured when their vehicle hit a mine planted by the Islamists just outside the town on Sunday, the sources added.

Boko Haram seized the town on the shores of Lake Chad on January 3 and is suspected of killing hundreds in what was feared to have been the worst massacre in the six-year insurgency.

Nigeria's military recaptured the town in late February, in an operation also involving Chad, Niger and Cameroon stepped up to drive out the militants from occupied territory.

"Boko Haram fired a rocket-propelled grenade on a military van in an ambush in Baga which killed two soldiers and destroyed the vehicle," said resident Karimbe Maina

The soldiers were driving back to their base outside Baga to mobilise more troops to help drag an armoured vehicle stuck in the mud across town on the shores of Lake Chad, he added

"Following the attack which killed two soldiers there was a prolonged gun battle between soldiers and the Boko Haram gunmen, which forced the gunmen to flee," said vigilante Haruna Shuaibu.

The attack disrupted the tour, forcing the residents to leave their badly damaged and pillaged town as quickly as possible, said Musa Bulama who was on the visit.

The visit was initially planned for Sunday but was temporarily stalled after a military vehicle set off a mine in Kauyen Kuros village, six kilometres (four miles) from Baga.

"We had to spend the night in Kauyen Kuros as a result of the explosion which injured six soldiers and a member of the civilian vigilantes giving security cover to the convoy," said Bulama.

Military spokesman Chris Olukolade said on February 21 that troops had to clear landmines planted by Boko Haram before being able to enter Baga.

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Nigeria claims to have Boko Haram on the run and that troops are poised to storm the group's Sambisa Forest stronghold by the handover of power to president-elect Muhammadu Buhari on May 29.

But with increasing talk of some of the 1.5 million people forced to flee the fighting returning home, the Baga residents said the area was still infested with militant fighters.

"Boko Haram are still in the bushes around Baga and move in and out of the town unchallenged because soldiers confine themselves to their base in Mile 4 and only carry periodic patrols of the town," said Maina.

Bulama added: "The area is still not safe. Boko Haram fighters are very much around in the surrounding areas. No one should contemplate moving back into the area because it is dangerous."

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