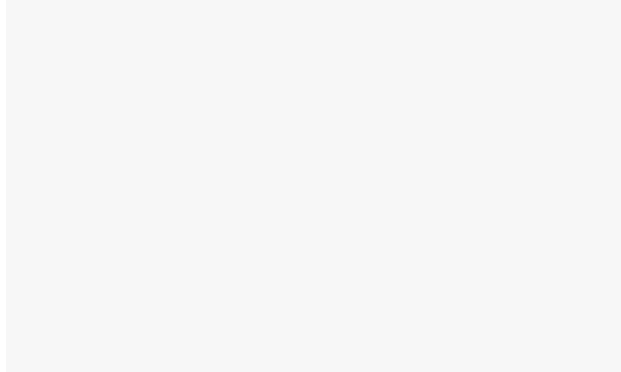


48 Boko Haram insurgents killed on Christmas Eve

• Three arrested

December 26, 2019



Agency Reporter

Soldiers and members of a vigilance group have repelled a Boko Haram attack on Biu in Southern Borno State, an official has said.

An official of the Civilian-JTF, whose members fought alongside the military against the insurgents, told PREMIUM TIMES that 48 Boko Haram fighters were killed in the battle.

The military is yet to speak on the attack.

PREMIUM TIMES on Tuesday night reported how Boko Haram fighters

gathered outside Biu to attack the town barely 24 hours after they were repelled by soldiers.

On Monday, the insurgents, in an attempt to attack Biu, ran over two villages on the outskirts of the town, killing two persons and injuring 13 others. They were later repelled by soldiers after hours of a gun battle on the outskirts of Biu.

The insurgents returned the next day.

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At about 6pm on Tuesday, residents of Biu were alerted to the gathering of suspected Boko Haram gunmen, who arrived at a location near Kimba, a village close to Biu.

Security sources, who spoke with PREMIUM TIMES on the phone on Tuesday, said troops mobilised from locations to confront the insurgents.

A source confirmed to this reporter yesterday morning that the troops in Biu and the ones in Damboa converged to engage the insurgents in a shootout that lasted till the early hours of Christmas day.

Backed by operatives of the Civilian-JTF, the battle continued until “48 of the Boko Haram gunmen dropped dead, while some fled with bullet injuries.”

“The operation lasted till about 4am when the soldiers and our members finished ransacking the areas for their bodies,” said a C-JTF operative, Muhammed Liberia, who spoke to our reporter.

“We were also able to arrest three of the Boko Haram insurgents and they are with the soldiers,” he said.

The military has not issued any statement on the Bui attacks, but another public official in the town said normalcy had returned there.

Bulama Talba, the press secretary to the Borno State deputy governor, who is in Bui with his principal, confirmed that the attackers were repelled.

“As I am talking to you now, normal activities are going in Bui town after the soldiers have repelled the planned attack.

“We heard that the soldiers have effectively repelled the intended attack, and people are carrying on with their Christmas celebration,” he said.

The Boko Haram insurgency in Northern Nigeria has caused over 30,000 deaths since 2009. The insurgents say they want an Islamic caliphate in Northern Nigeria.



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