

Zulum condemns killing of Borno farmers by 'ISWAP insurgents'



- ***CDS to N'Assembly: we need more funds to fight insecurity***

Borno State Governor Babagana Zulum has condemned Sunday's attack on farmers and fishermen by suspected members of the Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) at Dumba, Kukawa Local Government Area (LGA)

Zagazola Makama, a counter-insurgency publication focused on the Lake Chad region, said sources put the death toll at 40.

But there was no official figure by the military, the Police, and the state government as of 10 am yesterday.

According to the publication, the sources explained that the farmers negotiated payment of levies to a faction of ISWAP to enable them to access their farmlands.

They added that another ISWAP group, unaware of the agreement, ambushed and killed the farmers.

Zagazola Makama also quoted Abubakar Gamandi, chairman of the Lake Chad Fishermen Association, as detailing the incident and survivors' accounts of the armed group's betrayal.

Gamandi said: "Our farmers were killed after they went to the ISWAP enclave to farm. They had arranged with ISWAP and paid them money.

"Unfortunately, unaware of the agreement, another faction of ISWAP attacked them. This is what the survivors who escaped told us. Only when they all come out can we ascertain the total number of casualties."

The state's Commissioner for Information and Internal Security, Usman Tar, said in a statement yesterday that some farmers were able to flee into nearby bushes when the attackers struck.

He added that efforts by the government were underway to trace the survivors and reunite them with their families.

The commissioner quoted Governor Zulum as expressing deep sorrow over the incident.

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The governor, according to him, called on the military to pursue and neutralise the insurgents in Dumba and other places in the Lake Chad area.

Tar's statement reads: "With deep sorrow and anguish, I (Zulum) received the sad news of the attack on Dumba, where scores of our farmers and fishermen were killed by terrorists.

"On behalf of the government, I sympathise with the victims' families. Let me assure the citizens of Borno that this matter will be thoroughly investigated for necessary action."

The governor, however, noted that the victims venture outside the security perimeters established by the government and military, into areas not yet cleared of insurgents or landmines.

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He urged residents to adhere to the "safe corridors" demarcated by security agencies to avoid such risks.

His words: "The government has clearly demarcated land for safe farming and economic activities, allowing the military to focus on clearing unsafe areas. Citizens should not enter areas prone to terrorist attacks or contaminated by landmines.

"The safe corridors provide vast tracts of land for settlement, fishing, and farming under the watchful eyes of our gallant security forces.

"Straying into unsafe areas not only endangers lives but also complicates military operations against the terrorists."

The governor commended the Armed Forces for the ongoing efforts to secure vast stretches of land for farming and resettlement as part of the government's long-term strategy to manage displacements and enhance livelihoods.

CDS we need more funds to fight insecurity

In Abuja, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Gen. Christopher Musa urged the National Assembly to allocate more funds to the military to enable it to effectively tackle the security challenges in the country.

He also charged troops to make a significant impact by pursuing and neutralising terrorists and bandits wherever they may be hiding.



Gen. Musa spoke at the Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration and Award Evening for soldiers, ratings, and airmen on Sunday.

“We know the budget defence will commence very soon, and we are looking forward to a bumper harvest,” he said.

The CDS said the occasion was not only for remembering the “sacrifice of our fallen heroes who have laid down their lives to safeguard the country’s territorial integrity and national sovereignty,” but also to celebrate the doggedness and bravery of our officers in the Armed Forces.

He said: “We honour the memories of our departed, their accomplishments, loyalty, and dedication that they embodied.

“We further recognise the unwavering effort of our armed forces to address the security challenges and promote peace in our region. We commend the bravery, resilience, and commitment to duty by all our strong men. The families of our fallen heroes we reassure you that their sacrifice will never forgotten.

“ As we continue to support and ensure that their memories are honoured and celebrated, let us also recognize the contribution of our veterans who have served our nation with distinction and honour, including those who are currently serving across various military formations and institutions.”