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Boko Haram takes over Gwoza, residents allege

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Residents of Gwoza town in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, have alleged that the town is now under the Islamic militants, Boko Haram, after dislodging the military formations in the local government.

According to them, more than a hundred people were said to have been killed by the Islamic sect, who seized the town in the early hours of Wednesday.

Nigerian Tribune reported that the insurgents' capture of Gwoza, was the second time the sect would seize a major town from Nigerian troops.

It will be recalled that some weeks ago, Boko Haram massacred many residents of the town of Damboa and dislodged Nigerian troops stationed to secure the town.

"The soldiers guarding us just went away as the militants advanced against our town," a resident of the town said.

He added that the Islamist militants killed residents freely, adding that the casualties included the elderly, women, and children.

"If this continues, then, all of us will soon be without a place to call home," said the resident.

A top security source, who did not want his name mentioned, confirmed the Gwoza incident to our correspondent.

He said that the Boko Haram sect had diverted attention of the soldiers to Damboa.

It will be recalled that following an ambush last week Saturday, which resulted in the killing of 11 young officers of the Nigerian Army at Ngurosoye village of

Bama Local Government Area of Borno State, soldiers were reported to have launched an attack on the village said to be infested by the Islamic militants.

Nigerian Tribune made effort to get the views of the Army in Maiduguri, but the spokesman of the 7 Division, Nigerian Army, Colonel Muhammadu Dole, did not respond to his calls, even as his other number seemed to be permanently on voice mail.

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