

Saraki needed to provide Following the not guilty was not opposed by the on November 7, the court proper for his client to enter

Army denies suicide bomb attack in IDP camp, confirms death of 2 soldiers

COLLINS NNABUIFE - ABUJA

THE Nigerian Army, on Tuesday, described as misleading, reports of a suicide bomb attack on an Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp in Pulka community of Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno.

The military also described as fictitious, the purported killing of six soldiers by Boko Haram insurgents in an ambush on Damboa Road.

Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, 'Operation Lafiya Dole', Colonel Onyema Nwachukwu, gave the clarifications in an interview with the *News Agency of Nigeria*

(NAN) in Maiduguri, the state capital.

Nwachukwu disclosed that two suicide bombers infiltrated Pulka town on Monday, one of the bombers was neutralised by the troops, while the other one detonated an Improvised Explosive Device (IEDs) in the town, killed two persons and two others sustained injuries.

He said a military vehicle stepped on an IED device planted on Damboa Road, on Sunday, noting that two soldiers lost their lives in the incident.

"The incident in Pulka occurred inside the town and not at the IDPs camp. The gallant troops neutralised one of the attackers even before causing harm, to

any one, while the other suicide bomber detonated the explosive killing two persons and injuring two others.

"There was no ambush by the insurgents on our troops. The soldiers were involved in an IED explosion accident when their vehicle stepped on the device planted on the road.

"Two soldiers were involved in the incident; there was no ambush, no ammunition carted away or six soldiers killed, as being erroneously reported. It is a misrepresentation of facts," he said.

Nwachukwu said the military authorities had sympathised with the victims of the suicide

bomb attack in Pulka and reiterated its commitment to the protection of lives and property.

In another development, the Global Amnesty Watch in its report has exonerated Nigerian troops from the various allegation of complicity in the abuse of IDPs in the Northeastern part of the country.

The Country Representative, Africa Affairs of the Global Amnesty Watch (GAW), Helen Adesola, who disclosed this at the public presentation of the report on sexual harassment and exploitations being carried out in various IDPs camp across the country, said the ugly incidents came to light in the form of rumours and

idle talks, which prompted GAW to initiate further scrutiny of the claims being made.

Adesola said such cautionary step was necessary to ensure that traumatised victims did not wrongly accuse anyone and to ensure that perpetrators did not get alerted and have enough time to intimidate witnesses or victims.

"The allegations, however, found their way into the media before GAW could conclude its investigation.

"Even after losing the cover of unanimity under which it had wanted to conclude the review of the various incidents in the IDPs camps, GAW went ahead with the exercise," she said.