

near Jonathan's rally venue

the strike was reached at the end of the union's National Executive Council meeting on January 26.

Soldiers kill scores near Maiduguri

Barely seven hours after they were pushed back from Maiduguri, Borno State, insurgents attempted to overrun Tungushe, Konduga Local Government Area of the state.

Tungushe has a strong military presence and is considered a strategic point to Maiduguri.

It was learnt that about 1,000 soldiers in the village routed the insurgents with the assistance of some vigilantes.

A vigilante said, "Many Boko Haram insurgents were again killed in Tungushe when they attempted to invade the village."

"They regrouped after they were routed near Maiduguri on Sunday and came at about 5pm to the village. They engaged the military in a gunfight, throwing explosives and Rocket Propelled Grenades but were successfully repelled. So many of them were killed. Their corpses littered the streets and bushes in the village."

A military source, who did not want his name in print, claimed that over 100 insurgents were killed.

The Director of Defence Information, Maj. Gen. Chris Olukolade, did not give the details of the encounter when he spoke on the telephone with one of our correspondents.

"There was an attack in that area and they (insurgents) were repelled. But I don't have the details now."

A Borno State resident, Jack Vince, posted on his Facebook page on Monday that many soldiers, "including a Lt. Col., were reportedly killed at Tunkushe very close to my community and the military base."

He said that he learnt that most of the soldiers were killed by the heavy artillery fired from the cantonment.

"As I scribble these lines, gunshots and heavy artillery could be heard from the barracks. It may be yet another armageddon tonight (Monday)," he warned

Sabon-gari and Gubia are still under Boko Haram presence.

"Other areas such as Kirchinga, Pallam and Mayo-wandu have remained calm and peaceful. Equally in Yobe State, government troops have recaptured parts of Gujba and Gulani which had witnessed Boko Haram presence.

"In the last couple of days, the effort of the Nigerian military in checking insurgency in the North-East has continued to yield tremendous results.

"Specifically, on Sunday, government troops from 7 Division of the Nigerian Army stationed in and around Maiduguri successfully repelled a multi-prolonged attack launched by Boko Haram from various fronts, including Malwa Damba and Mafa.

"These attacks which were simultaneously launched by the insurgents were ultimately aimed at overrunning the strategic town of Maiduguri, but were effectively resisted by gallant troops assisted by the local civilian volunteers.

"This brave action, in addition to the recovery of three Armoured Personnel Carriers and 17 pick-ups, also resulted in heavy casualties on the side of the insurgents – the total figure of which is yet to be ascertained – as well as the recapture of the towns of Mafa, Gamboru-Ngala, Mallam Fatori, Abadan and Marte, while troops are advancing to retake other affected areas.

"The latest attacks mark the second time of Boko Haram's ferocious attack on the Borno State capital, within one week and it is worthy to note that the ability of the Nigerian military to resist these attacks has resulted in the recapture and liberation of several towns hitherto occupied by Boko Haram."

Omeri commended the determination and loyalty of the troops and vigilantes "who ably defended their territory, in spite of the violence and intimidation unleashed by the insurgents."

He appealed to those "living within the areas experiencing the current security challenges and even, those living outside the areas, to be more vigilant and continue to assist our