

and Ecology, Bukola Saraki, on Sunday described the demise of Muhammed as a tragic loss.

Saraki, in a statement in Abuja on Sunday, described the late Muhammed as a renowned Islamic cleric of good conduct and a great symbol of guidance for Muslims nationwide.

He said, "The eminent scholar was one of the first-class individuals who have really sacrificed for the propagation of peace, love, brotherliness and tranquility in our dear nation.

"Nigeria has indeed lost a rare gem! His demise is a great loss to Islam, humanity and Nigeria in general. He will be remembered for his principled life, spirit of tolerance, leadership quality and the spiritual roles he played during his lifetime."

Also, some Muslim students and organisations have condoled with Nigerian Muslims over the death of Muhammed.

The President, Muslim

the Nigerian army rescued

Soldiers arrest B'Haram fuel supplier, free 260 captives

Fidelis Soriwei, Abuja

THE troops of the Nigerian Army have arrested a man said to be a supplier of fuel and food to the members of the Boko Haram at Daban Shata, a suburb of Baga, Borno State.

Olukolade said that the military intelligence had been on the trail of the man until he was picked up in the early hours of Sunday.

The Defence spokesman stated also that the soldiers also rescued an additional 260 women and children near Chalawa Village in Adamawa State.

The troops had rescued 293 women and girls on Tuesday and another 160 women and children on Wednesday

According to him, the women and children were rescued and taken back to their communities in Madagali Local Government Area after being profiled.

He said that some of the rescued women said that they had to escape from their homes when the Magali area came under attack from the insurgents while others said they were abducted and taken to the area.

He said, "A man who specialises in supplying fuel and food to terrorists was this morning nabbed in Daban Shata in the suburbs of Baga, Borno State.

"The military intelligence had been trailing him till he was eventually trapped in the early hours of Sunday. He is presently undergoing interrogation.

"In another development, troops on patrol yesterday (on Saturday) located 260 women and children in the outskirts of Chalawa village in Adamawa State where they had been held up while trying to escape from terrorists.

"They have now been

Saturday.

conveyed back to their various communities in Madagali after undergoing the normal security profiling.

"Some of them disclosed that they had to abandon their homes to escape from the terrorists when Madagali came under their attack, while others were actually abducted and taken there. The terrorists were however sacked from the Madagali recently."

Olukolade said that the troops also killed several of the terrorists in the ensuing gun battle to recover the abducted women and children.

He added that while some of the terrorists escaped with varying degrees of gunshot wounds, others who were captured were undergoing interrogation.

He said that the troops captured a machine gun, some rounds of ammunition, motorcycles and bicycles from the terrorists.

sure the soldiers would rescue us," Umaru, a 24 year-old mother of two, told *Reuters*.

The prisoners suffered malnutrition and disease, she said. "Every day we witnessed the death of one of us and waited for our turn," Mrs. Umaru added.

Another freed captive, Cecilia Abel, said her husband and first son had been killed in her presence before the militia forced her and her remaining eight children into the forest.

For two weeks before the military arrived she had barely eaten.

"We were fed only ground dry maize in the afternoons. It was not good for human consumption," she said. "Many of us that were captured died in Sambisa Forest. Even after our rescue about 10 died on our way to this place."

Amnesty International estimates the insurgents, who are intent on bringing West Africa under Islamist rule, have taken more than 2,000 women and girls captive since the start

Meanwhile, the 23 Armoured Brigade of the Nigerian Army based in Yola, Adamawa State, has handed over 275 women and children rescued from insurgents in Sambisa Forest to the National Emergency Management Agency for rehabilitation.

The statement quoted the Commander, 23 Armoured Brigade, Col. Aba Popoola, as saying that "on behalf of the Nigerian Army, I want to hand over 275 rescued women and children that we rescued from Sambisa Forest to the National Emergency Management Agency for care and welfare."

Receiving the rescued persons, the Director-General, NEMA, Sani Sidi, said the rescued women and children needed special attention and that the agency had made all the necessary arrangements with relevant stakeholders for trauma counselling.

Ghuluze noted that the ministry had ensured regular supply of drugs to the clinics.