

B'Haram: Eight killed in foiled attack on Rann IDPs' camp

Olaleye Aluko, Abuja

While the bombed Internally Displaced Persons' camp in Rann, Borno State, had yet to return to normalcy after an accidental air strike which left over 100 dead on Tuesday, Boko Haram insurgents attempted to deepen the tragedy in the camp by staging an attack late on Thursday.

Our correspondent learnt

that during the Boko Haram attack, which led to a gun battle with troops at the camp, eight insurgents were shot dead and a soldier injured, as troops repelled the invading terrorists.

A source said the attack was among the reasons why the Chief of Army Staff, Lt.Gen. Tukur Buratai, was expected to visit the IDPs' camp on Friday to assess the security situation.

He added that the army chief's visit was also a fact-finding mission on the accidental

bombing incident on Tuesday by a Nigerian Air Force fighter jet.

It was learnt that the troops, in a gun battle which lasted for hours, repelled the insurgents, said to be as many as 80 gunmen.

The source said, "The Boko Haram members attempted to take over the Rann IDPs' camp area on Thursday evening. They probably wanted to capitalise on the air tragedy and relocation of many persons from the camp.

"They had a gun battle with the soldiers and in the end, about 8 of them were killed. Others escaped with gun injuries. We do not know whether it was the same terrorists that the troops had earlier tried to take out through the air strike."

The Director, Army Public Relations, Brig.Gen. Sani Usman, could not be reached for comments on Friday as his line did not connect.

A text message, also sent to his phone, had yet to be replied to as of the time of filing this report.

Forum: Fayose replaces Mimiko as chairman