

# 10 killed as B'Haram ambushes aid workers, soldiers

**Olaleye Aluko, Oladimeji Ramon and Kayode Idowu**

**N**O fewer than 10 persons were killed after Boko Haram terrorists ambushed a convoy of humanitarian workers and soldiers at the Maula village along the Dikwa-Ngala highway in Borno State.

The military's Operation Lafiya Dole Theatre Command in Maiduguri, Borno State,

which confirmed the incident on Monday, said the terrorists shot dead four persons while the troops also fought back and eliminated six of them during the ambush.

Also, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs condemned the attacks, saying "violence against convoys carrying humanitarian aid was unacceptable."

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Edward Kallon, said the North-East residents needed to access humanitarian assistance on time as many lives were at risk.

One of our correspondents learnt that the aid workers were taking food supplies in a convoy of vehicles, escorted by the army, to the Ngala area when the insurgents ambushed them on Saturday.

The food supplies reportedly belonged to the UN World Food Programme, which is the food-assistance agency of the UN.

It was gathered that the ambush resulted in a gunfight between the terrorists and the troops, during which 10 people were killed.

A spokesperson for the WFP, Adedeji Ademigbuji, said in a mail to one of our correspondents that the four

deceased aid workers included the driver of a WFP truck.

He stated, "The WFP can confirm that a convoy escorted by the Nigerian military, including WFP-hired trucks was the subject of an attack by armed groups at 35km South-West of Ngala in Borno State on Saturday."

"The armed ambush by a non-state armed group took place on the road between Dikwa and Gamboru, in Borno State, and resulted in the reported loss of at least four civilian lives as well as the destruction of basic aid items initially destined to alleviate the suffering of thousands of women, children and men."

"The driver of a WFP-hired truck and a driver's assistant were killed in the incident."

The Deputy Director, Army Public Relations and Theatre Command's spokesman, Col Onyema Nwachukwu, said the deceased civilians had yet to be identified as UN workers.

Nwachukwu added that the military recovered three AK 47 rifles, three locally-fabricated firearms, four magazines and a belt of 7.62mm ammunition.

The spokesman added "Contrary to rumours, none of the casualties in the encounter has been identified as a member of staff of the UN. The troops fought through the ambush, overpowered the insurgents and killed six of them."

"Sadly four persons died in the



L-R: Group Marketing Manager, John Holt Plc, Mr. Solomon Ezeanah; Deputy Controller of Prison, Ikoyi Prisons, ACP Akeem Salisu; and Company