

# Boko Haram attacks two army locations, seven insurgents killed

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Screenshot from video of Abubakar Shekau, leader of a Boko Haram faction. Source: Twitter: Audu Bulama Bukarti

## **Olaleye Aluko, Ted Odogun, Kayode Idowu**

Nigerian Army troops have shot dead at least seven Boko Haram terrorists after the insurgents attempted to invade two army locations in Borgozo in the Kaga Local Government Area and Banki in the Bama Local Government Area of Borno State.

The terrorists attempted to attack the locations of troops of 21 Special Armoured Brigade attached to *Operation Lafiya Dole*, but were resisted during a heavy gun battle.

An officer and two soldiers were injured during the encounter and said to have been taken to a military medical facility for treatment.

According to the army on Wednesday, the military recovered two AK-47 rifles, 86 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, three camel bags and one black Boko Haram flag during the attempted invasion.

The Nigerian Army Operations Media Coordinator, Col Aminu Iliyasu, said more than seven Boko Haram terrorists were shot dead during the various encounters, while others fled with gunshot injuries, adding that the military solicited more support from the North-East communities.

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He said, “Troops of 121 Battalion deployed at Pulka in the Gwoza LGA conducted a fighting patrol along the Mararaba Junction and neutralised three Boko Haram criminals’ logistics couriers while others escaped into the forest. Items captured in the aftermath of the encounter include 81 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, food items and seven bicycles.

“Troops of 29 Task Force Brigade at Borgozo in Kaga LGA resisted some Boko Haram elements who had dared an attack on the troops’ location. At the end of the encounter, three Boko Haram criminals were neutralised while several others escaped with injuries.

Also, troops of 21 Special Armoured Brigade deployed at Banki Junction in Bama responded to a Boko Haram attempted attack on their location, neutralised one Boko Haram criminal and captured two AK-47 rifles.”

Meanwhile, the military authorities on Wednesday freed 983 suspected Boko Haram members cleared of complicity with the terror group.

The head of the military counter-insurgency operation in the North-East (Operation Lafiya Dole), Maj. Gen. Olusegun Adeniyi, handed the freed men to Borno State Governor, Prof. Babagana Zulum at the Giwa Barracks, Maiduguri.

Presenting the men to the governor, Adeniyi said they were alleged to have links with the terror group.

The army appealed to the Borno State Government to empower them by training them in various trades and vocations.

He told the insurgents still in the trenches that those that voluntarily surrendered would be welcomed back to society and given preferential treatment.

In his address, Borno State governor said the state government would take the freed men to the rehabilitation centre to be trained in various vocations.

Meanwhile, suspected members of Boko Haram on Wednesday attacked Babbangida town in Yobe State.

The group launched the attack on the town in an ambulance, which they had earlier siezed from a team of immunisation officials at a nearby Muri Mafa village in the Tarmuwa local government area of the state.

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The immunisation staff were said to have left Babbangida for a routine immunisation exercise before they were attacked by the insurgents who carted away their ambulance.

According to people in Babbangida, the insurgents subsequently used the ambulance belonging to the primary health centre in the local government to move into the town at top speed.

They were said to have shot indiscriminately and carted away foodstuffs from the town.

A source in the town said the insurgents however escaped through the desert part on sighting the NAF jet that flew over the area moment after the siege.

In another development, the Yobe State Governor, Alhaji Mai Mala Buni, on Tuesday in Kano, disclosed that his administration had identified over 400,000 out-of-school children, all of whom would be integrated into the Tsangaya School/Western education system.

Declaring open a two-day retreat for the state Commissioners-designate in Kano, Buni regretted the devastating effect of terrorist activities, which he noted almost ruined the state. He added that for the last 10 years that insurgency had existed in Yobe State, the children were denied education, a situation that had adversely affected their educational development.