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Justin Tyopuusu and Leke Baiyewu 12 May 2022

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Gunmen suspected to be terrorists, on Tuesday, killed seven soldiers and a mobile police officer in a village in Takum Local Government Area of Taraba State, according to military sources.

This was as the terrorists bombed the 6 Brigade of the Nigerian Army Base in Jalingo, the sources said.

Several sources at the 93 Battalion of the Nigerian Army in Takum told one of our correspondents that the incident happened when soldiers were responding to an attack on Tati village near Jalingo.

One of the sources at the 93 Army Battalion said, “It’s unfortunate, we are all working for the state’s development. As we speak, the whereabouts of the Commanding Officer who led the operation are not known.

“It was not an ambush so to speak. It was an operation that turned bad. The terrorists lured the soldiers to a village (Tati) and the soldiers were deployed to the village.

“However, the bandits outnumbered the soldiers in that forest and killed seven of the soldiers and a policeman.

“There is another reinforcement headed by a Brigadier General that is coming and a detailed report and a picture of what transpired will emerge after the operation. The bandits cannot go away without the bodies of our men.”

Another source said the soldiers had neutralised a bandit hideout in the village, killing several bandits and recovering items.

The source added, “While some of the soldiers were coming for reinforcement, the bandits ambushed them, because they carried out anti-ambush drills and fought them out. We cannot say the exact number of soldiers that were victims in the operation, but certainly the bandits suffered heavy casualties.”

allegedly threw the explosive device into the base through the perimeter fence.

No life was lost in the incident, but eyewitnesses said the explosion caused some perimeter fence.

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At the time of filing this report, there was no official communication from the Brigad office, and the army had barricaded all roads leading to the base.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives on Wednesday observed one minute silence i civilians, policemen and the six soldiers who died in the attack.

The House urged the Chief of Army Staff, Lt.-Gen Yusuf Yahaya, and the Inspector-G Usman Baba, to deploy more security men to effectively secure Takum LGA of the st the bandits.

While urging intelligence agencies to take steps to fish out the sponsors of the bandits made to face the law, the lawmakers also urged government at all levels to ensure t men in the Armed Forces is urgently addressed.

In addition, the House urged the National Emergency Management Agency to u assistance to members of the affected communities in Takum LGA.

These resolutions were based on a motion of urgent public importance jointly spo members of the House from Taraba, Rimamnde Shawulu and Danjuma Shid unconscionable killings of civilians and soldiers in Takum, Taraba State: Need to incre of the Armed Forces and security agencies to forestall further loss of lives.

Shiddi said, “The House is concerned that these bandits are increasing their reach a more parts of the country. The House is also concerned that these bandits operat numbers and in this case, less than 20 military men were confronted by over 300 well a

“The House is disturbed by these persistent and consistent killings of both security civilians that may dampen the morale of our soldiers and encourage the bandits to cau

“The House is further disturbed that Nigeria has one of the lowest ratios of sol population, and the men are overstretched, as operations are taking place in almost federation.”

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