

Soldiers feared killed as B'Haram sacks Borno community

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Nahum Daso

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Suspected Boko Haram terrorists have attacked Kirawa, a border community in Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno State, reportedly killing several soldiers and abducting a schoolgirl, Aisha Muhammad Aja.

The attack, which lasted several hours, occurred late on Saturday, February 9, 2025, forcing many residents to flee across the border into Cameroon.

Confirming the incident to *The PUNCH*, the spokesperson for the Borno State Police Command, ASP Nahum Daso, said many villagers had yet to return.

“Yes, we are aware of the attack that occurred on Saturday. However, the detail is still sketchy because many residents are yet to return after they fled, so we can’t ascertain what happened to every individual currently,” he said.

The Chairman of the Kirawa Development Association, Yakubu Kirawa, said the insurgents razed homes, shops, and vehicles during the raid.

“On Saturday, around 9:30 p.m., Boko Haram went to the town. While in the town, they exchanged fire with the Multi Joint Task Force there. After the attack, they abducted a girl — her name is Aisha Muhammad Aja. They burned houses, vehicles, and shops.

“Around 1 a.m., they left the town and our people fled to Cameroon.

Later on, they came back again, while some slept there. Presently, the situation is a bit calm and most people have returned to the town and resumed their normal business,” he said.

Kirawa urged the Federal Government to deploy more troops to protect the area.

“Being a border community where it is just a river that separates us and Cameroon, we are requesting the Federal Government to establish a brigade and increase deployment to prevent porousness,” he added.

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Local sources told The PUNCH that the abducted schoolgirl had not been freed as of the time of filing this report.

“They killed soldiers and kidnapped a junior secondary school girl,” one source said, adding that many families remain displaced, with some still sheltering in Cameroonian border villages.

Efforts to reach the spokesperson for Operation Hadin Kai, Captain Reuben Kovangiya, were unsuccessful as he neither answered nor returned calls.

However, the Nigerian Air Force, under Operation Fasan Yamma, said on Monday that it had neutralised several bandits in Zamfara State during a coordinated air and ground assault on Makakkari Forest.

The Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Commodore Ehimen Ejodame, said in a statement on Monday that Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance had confirmed the movement of over 400 bandits who were planning to invade a farming community.

According to him, the August 10 operation involved precision airstrikes and ground assaults, killing several notorious kingpins and scores of their fighters.

He said, “The Nigerian Air Force under Operation Fasan Yamma, on 10 August 2025, recorded another major victory against armed bandits in Zamfara State, neutralising several terrorists in a coordinated air and ground assault on Makakkari Forest.

“Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance had confirmed movements of over 400 bandits, planning to invade a farming community.

“The operation involved precision airstrikes and ground assaults, resulting in the deaths of several notorious kingpins and scores of their foot soldiers. The synergy between air and land components made the operation exceptional.”