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53 Boko Haram terrorists killed

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BY OUR REPORTER ON DECEMBER 3, 2014

COVER, NATIONAL

•7 die in Fulani/farmers' clash

OUR REPORTERS: TIMOTHY OLANREWAJU, Maiduguri and ANDY ASEMOTA, Katsina

The military yesterday recorded another breakthrough in the counter-insurgency operations in the northeast, killing at least, 53 insurgents during a shoot-out at Konduga, Borno State.

This followed its success in halting Boko Haram's move to overrun neighbouring Damaturu, Yobe State capital on Monday when about 100 terrorists returned to Konduga, a small community in the central part of Borno, at about 9pm.

A source said the insurgents came in a convoy of about six Toyota Hilux vehicles and engaged the troops in a shoot-out. He said a soldier lost his life while a civilian was hit by a stray bullet in a nearby village, but this could not be confirmed from military authorities as at press time.

A youth vigilante, Masta Bukar, also said more than 53 insurgents were killed. "The military and our colleagues (youth vigilante) were on the alert. They fought well to dislodge the insurgents. Nobody will have the time to count them," he stated, even as he commended the military for "alertness and gallantry."

The Monday attack was the seventh when the insurgents would engage the military in the area in a gun duel and Boko Haram has always lost at least 40 in each of the battle, said the source. The military has announced it killed one Bashir Konduga, an alleged imposter of Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau, in a gun battle, the fourth in Konduga, a claim the sect leader later denied in a video.

Meanwhile, a 24-hour curfew was yesterday imposed on Damaturu following the Monday attack. A statement from

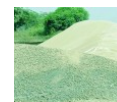
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Governor Ibrahim Gaidam's spokesman, Abdullahi Bego, said it was "part of measures to enable the security agents, who did a great job yesterday (Monday) repelling insurgent attacks on the town, to conclude their ongoing assignment."

The governor said he imposed the curfew after consultations with heads of law enforcement agencies. He advised residents to remain in their homes during the curfew.

"Gov Gaidam expressed his appreciation to the residents of the state capital, and to people all across the state, for their support and co-operation with security agents. He urges people to continue to support the security efforts and to pray to Almighty Allah for the return of peace and security," the statement said. Meanwhile, seven persons were last Monday killed during farmers Fulani herdsmen clash in Dandume Local Government Area of Katsina State. The incident occurred around noon at Nasarawa Village when suspected Fulani herdsmen invaded the village, killing three farmers.

The clash, however, claimed the lives of four herdsmen and about 30 cows.

The Chairman of the local government, Mallam Ya'u Ahmed, who confirmed this to newsmen at Dandume yesterday, said security operatives supported by some good Samaritans in the area recovered one AK 47 rifle and three motorcycles. He said 366 cows, 38 sheep, 46 goats, eight donkeys and a dog were recovered by the team in the bush surrounding the village.

All efforts to reach the spokesman of the state Police Command, Aminu Saddiq, a deputy superintendent, for comments, were futile.

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