

New Telegraph

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One soldier and two members of a militant group may have been killed in Akpabuyo, Cross River State as a group of Bakassi militants, led by one Benjamin Simply, alias G-1, attacked a military van on patrol of the area.

The incident, which took place early Saturday has thrown residents of the Local Government Area into confusion as the army is said to be combing everywhere in search of the militant leader who is regarded as the most wanted criminal in the state. Initial report had put the death toll on the part of the army at six, but this was refuted by the Commandant, 13 Brigade, Brig. Gen. Bulama Biu, who said after reinforcement, a head count was ordered and only one soldier was discovered to have died in the attack.

“Initially, we received a report that some soldiers were missing but we reorganised ourselves and after a head count, we discovered that only one soldier died in the attack. We are going all out ‘to look for them where ever they may be,” Gen. Biu said.

Biu, who did not disclose the name of the dead soldier, explained that the militants had laid an ambush without the knowledge of the soldiers who were patrolling the area and as soon as the militants opened fire on the

soldiers, the latter replied, a situation which led to the killing of the two members of the militant group.

Investigation by our correspondent showed that the militant leader was piqued by the arrest of his two brothers, popularly known as G2 and G3 respectively by security agents and decided to take it out on the army.