

# Boko Haram kills 30 soldiers in Borno



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•We recorded no casualty –Army

At least 30 soldiers have been allegedly killed in a fierce encounter with suspected Boko Haram terrorists in Borno State, the French news agency, Agence France Presse (AFP), has said.

According to the report, troops deployed in Zari town in Guzamali Local Government Area of Borno State, came under attack on Thursday, leading to the killing of the fighting troops.

Quoting military sources, the report said: “At least 30 Nigerian soldiers were killed in combat with Boko Haram jihadists who overran a military base in the North-East near the border with Niger.

“Scores of jihadists in trucks stormed the base at Zari village in northern Borno State late Thursday and briefly seized it after a fierce battle in which 30 soldiers were killed...”

Sunday Telegraph's investigation revealed that the soldiers killed were elements of 2 Division Nigerian Army, who were deployed on Operation Last Hold.

A highly-placed source who spoke in confidence with Sunday Telegraph on the development alleged that the same location had come under attack previously.

"The attack took place on Thursday, at Zari in Damasak. That was the same location that some people; were dislodged; that was the place that some of them ran to. It's elements of 2 Division Nigerian Army that went for this Operation Last Hold. They were deployed in Zari, Damasak."

Several calls to the Director of Army Public Relations (DAPR), Brig-Gen. Texas Chukwu, were unanswered, even as a text message requesting official reaction, had yet to be replied to, as at the time of filing this report..'

But, the spokesman for Theatre Command, Operation Lafiya Dole, Col. Onyema Nwachukwu, while confirming the attack, denied that the Army suffered casualties. Nwachukwu, in a telephone conversation with our correspondent, insisted that several of attackers were killed, even as their equipment were recovered.

"That information is not correct. It's true that we had an encounter with Boko Haram at a location called Zari... The Boko Haram came to attack that community, and our troops deployed few kilometres away from the location, countered the attack.

"The ground troops were supported by the Air Task Force, and several Boko Haram Terrorists we're killed, and we also destroyed many of their equipment, weapons. On our side, I'm yet to receive