

Boko Haram attacks military location in Borno

● Military source: We repelled them, killed scores

Emmanuel Onani and Ahmed Miringa

There are indications that a military location in Dalwa, Konduga Local Government Area of Borno State, may have been attacked by suspected Boko Haram Terrorists.

New Telegraph gathered from insider sources that the attack, which occurred at about 6p.m. on Saturday, led to possible dislodgement of troops, some of whom were said to be finding their way to Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

The attackers, according to the sources, were said not to have held ground, as they pulled out after their mission.

Casualty figure was not available as at the time of filing this report.

"They attacked on Saturday at about 6p.m., and dislodged, but we don't know the casualty figure yet.

"You know they (terrorists) had attacked Dalwa before, but gallant troops repelled the attacks.

"They succeeded this time. In fact, the soldiers have escaped to different locations.

"I know they dislodged troops' location. The troops held out for quite a while, but the terrorists overpowered them," one of the sources said.

He added: "You know what terrorists do these days; they don't hold ground. They just dislodge the troops, cause maximum damage, whatever they can move, they move, but what they can't move, they destroy.

"Soldiers dislodged from there, are already in different places. Even me, I have suffered financial consequences, as some of my boys have called to send them something (money)."

But, the Nigerian Army has since denied that its troops came under attack.

The Acting Director of Army Public Relations (DAPR), Col. Sagir Musa,

who responded in a brief telephone conversation yesterday, said: "There is nothing like that. No attack on any (of our) troops location. There is nothing like that."

Musa's position was, however, contradicted by a field officer, who admitted that there was an incident in Dalwa.

The officer, who spoke with one of our correspondents, said what happened was that troops on routine patrol along the Maiduguri-Damboia road, had sighted the fighters, as they "regrouped" to attack the Forward Operation Base (FOB) in Dalwa.

The personnel, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, for fear of reprisal, said the troops on patrol engaged the fighters, leading to the death of scores of the insurgents.

"Yes, on Saturday, at about 6p.m., our troops who are on routine patrol along Maiduguri-Damboia road sighted some insurgents who were regrouping in preparatory to launch an attack on our Forward Operation Base in Dalwa and opened fire on them unawares, where scores of the insurgents were killed, and many arms and ammunition recovered.

"We gave them a heavy blow as many of them were killed, others escaped with bullet wounds.

"The insurgents were gathering in their regrouping point near Dakwa at about 6p.m., anticipating attacking our base, when our Muslim colleagues were breaking their fast at about 6:25p.m. But luckily for us, our troops on patrol engaged them," the source said.

Dalwa village is about 21 kilometers away from Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

It would be recalled that during the Ramadan, the insurgents had launched attacks on Molai, Sajeri, Abbajideri and Jimtilo villages.

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