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Boko Haram terrorists ambush, kill Major, 50 soldiers

●Buhari to Army: We can't allow anarchists hold Nigeria hostage

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There are strong indications that an army major and over 50 soldiers of the Nigerian military were killed in an ambush by suspected Boko Haram Terrorists (BHTs) operating in the North-East.

The soldiers were attached to 'Operation Ayiso Tamonuma,' deployed in Borno State, the epicentre of terrorist activities.

A Major of the Nigerian Army, who was said to be a deputy commanding officer (CO) of the battalion, was suspected to have been killed in the deadly attack.

Investigations revealed that before Monday's deadly encounter, the troops came under a failed ambush within the Alagarno general area of Borno State, during clearance operations, between Saturday and Sunday.

A highly-placed military source, who spoke in confidence with New Telegraph, said: 'It's true that over four dozens of our gallant troops were wasted by BHTs at a fighting location in Borno. All I can say, as I feel so sad, is that the terrain was still being studied by the soldiers, when the terrorists suddenly struck in the intensity they did.'

"Make no mistakes about this counter-insurgency war: those non-state actors are exploring their ter-



Boko Haram members

rain, and the fact of sophisticated weaponry, to deal fatal blows on our gallant troops. As my heart bleeds, I call on our authorities to leave propaganda, and listen to those operational concerns and cries field officers and fighting troops raise."

It was also heard that the wounded-in-action, had since been evacuated to Damaturu and Maiduguri military hospitals for medical attention.

Meanwhile, PRNigeria, a news syndicate agency, has attributed the fatal incident to possible sabotage by locals, who allegedly leaked the troops' movement to the enemy forces.

It reported: "Suspected local informants were alleged to have leaked movements of Nigerian troops to Boko Haram terrorists after a successful military operation in Alagarno axis of Borno State.

The terrorists used the information provided by their local collaborators to stage an ambush and shot at military logistics trucks conveying fuels and ammunitions in the area. The attack on the trucks triggered massive explosions, leading to the death of 47 gallant troops of the Nigerian military."

Earlier, the Defence Headquarters, through its Directorate of Defence Media Operations (DDMO), had issued a statement on the Allagarno attack.

Director, Brig-Gen. Benard Ony-

euko in a statement, stated: "Troops of Operation Lafiya Dole have dealt another crippling blow on Boko Haram Terrorists (BHTs) in the North-East part of the country. This was achieved at Gorigi in the Allagarno Forest general area of Borno State on March 23, 2020. The routing occurred when the Land Component of Operation Lafiya Dole conducting clearance operations along the Allagarno Forest axis, as part of the ongoing subsidiary Operation, 'Operation Ayisi Tamonuma', came into contact with mounted BHTs.

"Accordingly, air assets, including an Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platform and fighter jets, were immediately scrambled to provide Close Air Support to the troops. While the ISR platform provided situational awareness to the troops, the fighter jets engaged the BHTs, immobilizing a gun truck and

neutralizing some of the terrorists. Some others, who attempted to beat a hasty retreat, were mopped up by the jets in follow-on attacks. The Armed Forces of Nigeria, in furtherance of the objective of restoring peace and security in the North-East, will continue to sustain the offensive against the enemies of our nation."

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari has told the Nigerian Army that his government cannot allow anarchists and mass murderers to hold the country hostage.

In a statement made available to newsmen yesterday by his spokesman, Malam Garba Shehu, the President expressed "profound grief and sorrow" over loss of soldiers who were ambushed by terrorists in Gorgi Village, Borno State.

"Sacrifices of our gallant patriots cannot be quantified, and their sacrifices cannot go in vain," he said while commiserating with their families and those that sustained injuries.

He added that the death of every soldier causes deep pains because he knew what it means to be a soldier, and fully understood the extreme risks associated with the profession.

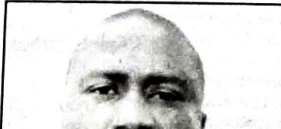
Buhari said "despite the tragedies and incidents, we cannot allow anarchists and mass murderers to hold the country hostage."

The President appealed to the military "not to allow the incident to affect their morale."

He assured that his administration will continue to motivate and equip them adequately in order to cope with the complex challenges of unconventional warfare.

The Nigerian Army has dispatched a team to assess the situation and report back to the government.

Fake Atiku's aide arraigned over N100m campaign fraud



dock began after the Kaduna office of the Commission received a petition from Abdullahi Mohammed Wuroji, Magaging Director, Waram Nigeria Limited, a Limited Liability Company in

sion of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud, obtained property to wit: 13 brand of cars, shoes and clothes worth the total sum of N65,680,000.00 only from Abdullahi Mohammed Wuroji