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JTF Kills Four Boko Haram Members in Yobe

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Police Headquarters

Michael Olugbode in Damaturu and Segun Awofadeji in Bauchi

The military Joint Task Force (JTF) Tuesday raided one of Boko Haram's hideouts in Gashua town in Bade Local Government Area of Yobe State, killing four members of the sect and arresting four others.

The killing and arrest of the Boko Haram members, however, came on a day some gunmen suspected to be members of sect also killed two soldiers, injuring a civilian in what was regarded as an unprovoked attack at a Suya joint along Kano-Potiskum-Maiduguri road in Azare Federal highway in Bauchi State.

But, the JTF stated that the raid, which was carried out in the early hours of yesterday, led to the recovery of some arms and ammunition, which include three AK 47 rifles and 42 rounds of ammunition.

Speaking on the raid and arrests to journalists in Damaturu, the spokesman of JTF, Lt. Lazarus Eli, said at about 5 a.m. yesterday, men of the JTF raided a suspected terrorist's hideout in Gashua town of the state.

He said: "During the JTF raid which was initially faced with resistances from the terrorists, our men overcome their resistance with superior fire power and killed four suspects with the arrests of four other suspects."

Meanwhile, a dependable security source, who confirmed the incident to THISDAY in Bauchi yesterday, said: "Yes they killed our men, two of them and we have received the report."

The top security source, who pleaded anonymity "for security reasons" explained that, "yesterday (Monday) in the night unknown gunmen shot two soldiers to death and took away their rifles at a Suya Joint in Azare, its unfortunate we have lost two of our braved soldiers in an unprovoked attack again, their dead bodies have been evacuated and deposited at the Federal Medical Centre Azare, we will soon fish out the killers and we recorded one person had stray bullets in his two legs he was also taken to Hospital and receiving treatment."

Eli further disclosed that the arms and ammunitions recovered in the raiding of terrorists' hideout include three Kalashnikov rifles, 42 rounds of ammunition, three magazines, a Thuraya handset, two laptops, a blood pressure gauge, 21 wrist watches, 13 handsets, a CD player and 18 SIM cards.

He, however, appealed to the public to continue to provide the task force with information on the operations of the group, assuring them of the military commitment to restore peace back to the area.

"The problem here is that no so called elders will speak against this dastardly and unprovoked attack now but when soldiers are carrying out their constitutional duties that is when some people will claim that they are killing innocent people as if soldiers or security agents fall from heaven and are no human beings too. But no amount of provocation will deter us from carrying out our duty of putting a stop to the current security challenges across the country."

Meanwhile, a pressure group, the Northern Brotherhood Movement (NBM) has condemned the incessant bombings in the north, saying the development was giving

Islam a bad name.

Leader of the group, Alhaji Aminu Mohammed Danmaliki, who made the remark yesterday, while extending the Ed-el-Kabir wishes to Christians in the country, said Islam was a peaceful religion, which does not condone violence in all ramifications, since the religion was against violence of any form.

According to the group: "We did this as a mark of respect and the need to set a new beginning towards strengthening ties of Kinship among the adherent of Islam and Christianity which the spirit of sacrifice Eid-el-Kabir symbolises.

"This gesture has become necessary amidst the security challenges facing particularly Northern Nigeria that led to the loss of lives and properties of both Muslims and Christians. The Northern Brotherhood Movement having realised that the issue of ensuring peace, unity and security should not be left to the hands of the three tiers of governments alone.

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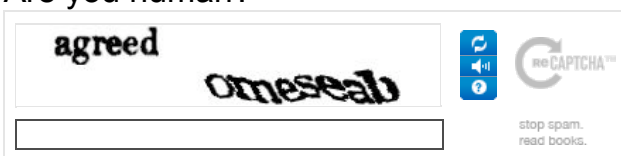
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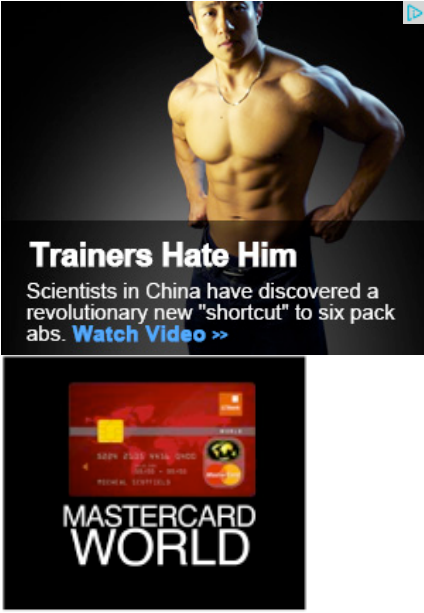
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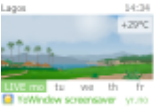
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