

# Chadian, Nigerien troops recapture Damasak, kill 200 insurgents

By Ndahi Marama

**M** MAIDUGURI — CHADIAN and Nigerien troops, yesterday, succeeded in liberating another Nigerian town, Damasak, the headquarters of Mobbar Local Government Area of Borno State, killing over 200 Boko Haram insurgents, following a two-day "coordinated joint border military operations."

The operations, according to reliable sources, involved both "aerial and ground bombardments" along the Nigerian-Nigerien border areas and Kumadugu-Yobe River Basin.

Confirming yesterday's incidents, Colonel Nedurum of Nigerien military troops said: "Our two-day joint military operations with over 180 Chadian soldiers, were successful today, after the fleeing insurgents in Damasak and the ones along the Kumadugu-Yobe River Basin, were killed, including the destruction of their operation vehicles, some rifles and ammunitions used in terrorising our people in the border areas of Bosso, Diffa and five other villages in the border with Nigeria."

He said the insurgents attempted to flee across the River into Niger, but Nigerien and Chadian soldiers, intercepted the terrorists at Damasak and three other villages along the Nigerian borders.

"The success of today's joint military operations was, however, challenging, as we had to block terrorists' escape routes at the borders, when Nigerien military lost five of its members, while Chad lost 10 on Sunday and yesterday," said Col. Nedurum.

He said 29 Nigerien soldiers were also injured and they had been ferried to a military hospital in Diffa.

In a telephone interview, he said "before today's (Monday) successful joint military operations, these terrorists had been making life very difficult and frustrating to the point that many residents were killed in the last one or two months. But now our people can sleep with their two eyes closed.

Residents of Diffa, also told our Correspondent that they had been hearing sounds of artillery gunshots and explosions near Damasak and two other border villages on Sunday and early hours of yesterday (Monday).

According to Mallam Bunu Muktar of Diffa town, "the sporadic exchanges of gunshots and explosions at the border areas with Boko Haram gunmen, forced us to be awake throughout Sunday and Monday, because many of us feared that the insurgents could cross this River to attack and kill us as they did last week at a mosque".