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this 17th day of April, 2015".

Sambisa: Army kills scores of terrorists

BY KINGSLEY
OMONIBI, ABUJA

- One soldier dead
- Over 20 women, children rescued

The Defence Headquarters (DHQ) disclosed, yesterday, that 20 women and children abducted by Boko Haram were rescued during troops offensive on the camps of the group inside Sambisa forest just as scores of the Islamist group's fighters were killed in the assault.

One soldier was killed and 10 others sustained injuries as a result of landmine explosions.

A statement by the Director of Defence Information, Major General Chris Olukolade reads: "Despite continuous encounter with large number of land mines which still litter the Sambisa forest, troops have forged ahead

with the ongoing offensive operations as scores of the terrorists died in the assault on their bases on Friday. Several of their weapons and equipment perished during the encounter.

"Over 10 soldiers were however wounded while one died following explosions of land mines along the routes of advance. Some equipment were also damaged or affected by the detonation of land mines in several points in the forest.

"A total of 20 women and children were rescued at the end of the Friday operation. They have all been airlifted out of the forest. The wounded soldiers

have also been moved out for necessary treatment.

"Two major ammunition dumps maintained by the terrorists in the forest were also destroyed, along with the 4 additional terrorist's camps that were smashed in the operation of Friday.

"An armoured tank and over 10 vehicles of various types being used for their operations as well as 70 motorcycles and 15 tricycles of the terrorists also perished during the operation.

"Air and artillery bombardment of identified terrorists camps and locations in various aspect of the forest including the

Alafa aspect, is still ongoing as troops continue the offensive action on terrorists in the forest.

"In another development, cordon and search around Bitta have been intensified following an incident where two young boys were wounded after picking up a grenade from a refuse dump. "The weapon is believed to have been abandoned by terrorists that fled the town which is not too far from Sambisa forest.

"Aggressive patrols and surveillance by land and air are also being maintained in the general area".

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