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19 killed as Boko Haram hits Borno village

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By Joseph Erunke, with agency report

No fewer than 19 persons were, Sunday, killed at Malari village, Borno State, by Boko Haram insurgents.

An aid worker at a camp for internally displaced persons, IDPs, in Monguno, a town in Borno, said hundreds of survivors from villages in the area have fled to the IDPs camp.



Boko Haram Terrorists

This is even as the Army denied reports that 50 soldiers were lost to Boko Haram insurgents.

Abatcha Umar, a witness, who noted that the attack took place in the early hours of Sunday, said he counted 19 bodies, including that of his younger brother.

He added that the militants were spotted around the village three days before their attack and that residents informed soldiers stationed in the nearby town of Gudumbali, but lamented that no action was taken.

An aid worker at a camp that received the survivors, and who declined to be identified, put the death toll at 63.

Boko Haram fighters, according to Reuters, reportedly arrived in trucks firing guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

The attack is coming weeks after many soldiers were killed in an ambush in the North-East, as Boko Haram has continued to carry out attacks in the region, despite efforts by government to subdue the group.

Army denies 50 soldiers were killed in Borno

Meanwhile, Nigerian Army has denied media reports that it lost over 50 soldiers to Boko Haram terrorists.

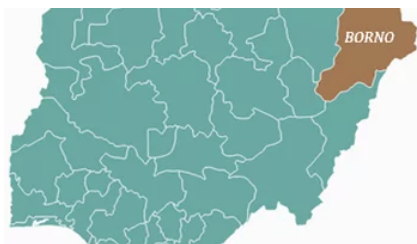
The Army said the report, which it described as false, was one of the many strategies of the Boko Haram terrorists to deceive unsuspected public from knowing the many successes being recorded by the military in the ongoing war against terrorism.

Director of Army Public Relations, Brigadier General Texas Chukwu, reacting to the report in a telephone interview with *Vanguard* in Abuja, yesterday, insisted that troops in the North East were intact, asking Nigerians not to fall prey to the terrorists' antics.

Chukwu particularly pleaded with the mainstream media not to believe stories that terrorists were planting in some social media platforms.

The army spokesman, who told *Vanguard* he was right in Maiduguri, Borno State, appealed to all Nigerians to stop taking the claim of terrorists serious.

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