

Boko Haram attacks military convoy, carts away cash, arms cache, food

●As Army kills many terrorists, recovers arms, ammunition

By Kingsley
Omonobi & Ndahi
Marama

BOKO Haram fighters, weekend, in an ambush, attacked a military convoy on its way from Yobe to Biu in Borno State, making away with a large amount of money, cache of arms and food items.

Although nobody was killed in the attack, *Vanguard* gathered that one soldier was wounded.

The soldiers of Nigerian Army Super Camp 3 and the 231 Battalion, both under Sector 2 Operation *Lafiya Dole*, were moving supplies from Damaturu, Yobe State, to Biu, Borno State, when they drove into the ambush around Azare-Kamuya end of the highway at about 9:00 a.m. on Friday.

A fierce firefight was said to have ensued between the soldiers and the insurgents, following which large military equipment were destroyed.

It was also learned that a gun truck for the 231 Battalion was seized by the insurgents and taken away.

"They also made away with N15,492,000 in ration cash allowance for soldiers on the frontlines. At N1,000 per day, the amount can cover allowances of 20,000 troops for a week," a source said.

It was gathered that a reinforcement from 27 Task Force Brigade, Damaturu, which later intervened in the attack, killed one of the insurgents.

Military sources said one Boko Haram fighter was killed, insisting that only one soldier was wounded and no military casualties in the attack.

On the incident of road ambush along the road, which took place on Friday

morning, some drivers, who escaped unhurt, told our correspondent that the insurgents succeeded in burning several vehicles and killing innocent souls, which led to the temporary closure of the road in Buratai, the ancestral home of the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Yusuf Tukur Buratai.

One of the drivers plying the route, who did not want his name in print, said he left Biu at about 8am on Friday to Maiduguri, a journey of at least five hours due to poor road network and military checkpoints, but had to stop over in Damaturu, the Yobe state capital, since he couldn't beat the road closure deadline of 6 pm to enter Maiduguri.

He said: "We were prevented from plying the road when we got to Buratai due to Boko Haram ambush and attack on the road on Friday."

Army kills many terrorists, recovers arms, ammunition

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Army said, yesterday, that its troops fighting to clear Boko Haram terrorists from the North-East have taken the fight to hideouts of the terrorists at Gworege village in Dikwa, killing scores after a hot exchange of gun shots and recovering of arms.

A statement by Col Sagir Musa, acting Director, Army Public Relations, said no soldier was killed in the encounter but noted that a hunter who was wounded had been evacuated to a military health facility and stabilised.

The statement read: "Following credible information from the locals about the presence of terrorists at Gworege village in Dikwa Local Government Area of Borno State, troops

of 22 Brigade/Super Camp Dikwa in conjunction with the Civilian Joint Task Force, local vigilantes and hunters, conducted a successful raid and clearance operations in Gworege community to clear the village of terrorists reportedly hibernating in the area.

"The terrorists engaged the troops in a firefight but had to flee as a result of superior fire power of the troops.

"Consequently, troops cordoned off and searched the village and recovered the following: six AK-47 rifles, and 66 units 7.62 MM ammunition. No soldier was killed, wounded or missing in action.

"Unfortunately, a hunter was wounded, and is receiving treatment at the 22 Brigade Medical Centre in Dikwa. He has been stabilised and is fast recovering.

"Many terrorists reportedly met their Waterloo during the encounter, while others escaped with injuries."

Certificate saga: Resign now, PDP tells Buhari

By Dirisu
Yakubu

ABUJA—PEOPLES Democratic Party, PDP, yesterday, asked President Muhammadu Buhari to immediately vacate his seat, following alleged admission that he does not possess a West African Examinations Council, WAEC, certificate, contrary to claims.

The party was reacting to the video of the media interview by the Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, where the admission was allegedly made.

Addressing the media, yesterday, in Abuja, National Publicity Secretary of the party, Kola Ologbondiyan, said: "The PDP holds that the pronouncement and appeal

for pardon issued by the government's spokesperson, who is also a lawyer, is a direct guilt plea, which cannot save President Buhari from the course of justice in this matter.

"From the official pronouncement by the minister on a national television, it is no longer in dispute before all Nigerians that President Buhari does not possess the educational certificate he claimed in the affidavit he deposed to in his presidential nomination form.

"In this latest shenanigan, President Buhari and his handlers ought to have known that the law, which the judiciary is bound to uphold, is a respecter of no man.

"The PDP reminds

President Buhari of how his presidency vehemently applied the law in similar circumstance to remove a head of an arm of government, a situation, which renders his plea for pardon a complete nullity before the law.

"The PDP holds that if President Buhari indeed seeks for pardon from Nigerians, he should do the needful by toeing the path of honour and vacating the Presidential seat without further delay.

"It is disheartening that President Buhari and his All Progressives Congress, APC, would put our nation through the troubles of legal hassles when they knew all the while that they were building something on nothing."