

# In new video, ISWAP threatens Army after killing 2 soldiers, policeman in Borno

## ●As troops rescue 14 women, 17 children from insurgents

By Joseph Erunke

**T**HE Islamic State of West African Province, ISWAP, has executed two soldiers and a policeman, and vowed to declare war on the Army for interfering with its operations.

This came as the Nigerian Army said, yesterday, it rescued 31 persons, comprising 14 women and 17 children, from insurgents in yet another successful operations launched against terrorists by troops in Borno State.

The execution contained in the latest video, dated December 8, released by the group, emerged online, yesterday.

In the video, the execution of the security agents was effected by masked men believed to be members of ISWAP, and those killed were said to have been abducted at a fake checkpoint in Benisheikh, a village 70 kilometres west of Maiduguri, Borno State capital.

It is not clear how many people were abducted, but the video only showed three tortured security personnel with their hands tied behind their back.

They displayed their identity cards and introduced themselves as a mobile police sergeant, as well as a sergeant and a private soldier of the Nigerian Army.

Before the killing, a masked man in the video backing a river believed to be around the Lake Chad area spoke in Hausa language.

### Threat

He threatened that the group would carry out 'massive attacks' on military formations and ambushes on the highway in the region.

"We are saying to the

soldiers of Nigeria, we will never spare those fighting people practising the religion of Allah. Because of that we shall attack your barracks, wallahi we shall block you on your roads. The story is, what you hear is not what you see; what lies ahead is tougher and uglier than this, Allahu Akbar," he said.

### How they were abducted

Shortly before they were killed, the security personnel narrated that they were abducted from a village located few kilometres to Maiduguri.

It was learned that some of the security agents were returning to the theatre of operation after a welfare pass to their base where they had gone to see their families.

Vanguard gathered that following the disbandment of most military checkpoints along the Maiduguri-Damaturu road, the insurgents now mount fake check points dressed in full military regalia.

The criminals also took advantage of the "Operation Positive Identification" exercise through which they identified their victims.

Last week, ISWAP had in a statement claimed that it abducted 14 "prisoners" on the same road, six of whom were soldiers, two staff of the Red Cross and six others.

Efforts made to get the reaction of the Army, yesterday, proved futile, as calls made to the telephone of Director of Army Public Relations, Col Sagir Musa, rang out without response.

A text message sent to his phone was also not replied.

### Troops rescue 14 women, 17 children

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Army said it has rescued 31 persons, including 14 women

and 17 children from terrorists in Borno State.

According to the Army, seven insurgents were also killed, while three others voluntarily surrendered to troops during a fierce operation that saw some terrorists' enclaves completely destroyed and the 31 persons rescued from hideouts of the insurgents.

In a statement signed by Operations Media Coordinator, Col. Aminu Iliyasu, the Army said the search of the terrorists' hideout was conducted by troops of 21 Special Armoured Brigade on December 4, 2019, at Mantari, Malam Masari and Gabchan villages in Bama Local Government Area of Borno State.

The statement read: "In yet another display of gallantry and patriotism, the combined troops of 68/94 Battalions of Operation Lafiya Dole deployed at Malam Fatori in Abadam LGA of Borno State conducted an aggressive

fighting patrol to a location earlier reported by the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, ISR, mission conducted by the Air Task Force of Operation Lafiya Dole as harbouring some activities of the Boko Haram criminal elements.

"The troops successfully uncovered the enclave and proceeded to engage it with devastating volumes of fire. Without any attempt to return fire, the cowardly criminals scampered into the nearby bushes in complete disarray. "Subsequently, the troops immediately embarked on an exploitation of this success by pursuing them along their withdrawal route.

"During the said exploitation, troops discovered the body of one Boko Haram terrorist and further observed several trails of blood along the route.

"During the said exploitation, troops discovered the body of one Boko Haram terrorist and further observed several trails of blood along the route."

## Buhari appoints Nami to replace

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

**A**BUJA—PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has appointed Mohammad Nami, a renowned tax consultant, to replace chairman of Federal Inland Revenue Service, FIRS, Babatunde Fowler.

Fowler, according to a statement by Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Mallam Garba Shehu, has been directed to hand over to the most senior director on the board.

The president also approved the composition of a new board for FIRS subject to Senate's confirmation.

Shehu explained that the FIRS board was composed of

a member representing each of the six geographical zones and statutory representatives from a select number of ministries and government agencies.

The statement read: "Mr. Muhammad, a well-trained tax, accounting and management professional with highly rated qualifications and professional practice and licences from relevant professional bodies, has almost three decades of practical working experience in auditing, tax management and advisory and management services to clients in the banking, manufacturing, services and public sectors as well as non-profit organizations.

"He is an expert in