

**NABBED:** Arrested suspected cullists who have been terrorising residents of Ita Oluwo area of Ogijo, Ogun State being paraded by the police, yesterday.

## Boko Haram kills 3 soldiers, injures 2 in Goniri, Geidam attacks • Army nabs CJTF member over fake report

By Kingsley Omonobi

**T**HE Nigerian Army said, yesterday, that three soldiers were killed and two others sustained injuries when Boko Haram terrorists attacked troops providing security for road construction along Goniri-Kafa supply route and Geidam town and not 20 soldiers as reported in the social media.

Director of Army Public Relations, Brig-Gen Mohammed Yerima, said the allegation is "false/fake and baseless aimed at discouraging the public and demoralising troops on the untiring efforts in the overall fight against insurgency. There was no attack where 20 soldiers were killed in the entire Theatre.

"For the records, recent events that occurred within the Theatre were professionally reported and documented by the Nigerian Army, which includes the attack on troops providing security for road construction workers along Goniri-Kafa Main Supply Routes, MSR, on February 5 2021 and the recent attack on Geidam on February 9, 2021, which were all decisively dealt with and repelled.

"The attack on the troops

along the road construction site and the attempt to infiltrate Geidam town by the terrorists were swiftly and professionally cleared by the dogged Mobile Strike Teams (MSTs) and elements of 159 Task Force Battalion.

"However, regrettably three gallant soldiers paid the supreme sacrifice while two others sustained injuries and are receiving treatment at our medical facility.

"The BHTs and ISWAP are on the run and desperate for foods, drugs and logistics from soft targets for survival as their camps, routes and enclaves have been destroyed, blocked and manned by troops of Operation "Tura Takaibango."

### Army nabs CJTF member over fake report

Meanwhile, one Umar Muhammed has been arrested by the Nigerian Army for allegedly sharing fake information on the alleged killing of soldiers in Borno by Boko Haram.

Muhammed, 29, alleged that Boko Haram fighters killed five soldiers and also abducted many others when workers

were repairing electricity facilities along Maiduguri-Damaturu road last Monday.

He shared the fake report on February 8 during an operational tour of troops' locations in the theatre, by the Chief of Army (COAS), Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Attahiru.

A military source disclosed that Muhammed, who was identified as a Civilian JTF member at Shehuri-North in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council, was arrested at his residence by security operatives.

He added that the suspect allegedly shared the false information, knowing fully well that it could create panic in the minds of citizens.

"This kind of fake news can create false impressions in the minds of many. From the suspect's post, it is clear that the idea behind it was to sabotage the good efforts of the Military," he said.

The suspect claimed, during a preliminary investigation, that his account was hacked by anonymous persons to send the fake report.

The Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, Col Ado Isa, in a statement, described the report as "fake and misleading."