

B-Haram attacks military formation in Borno; 2 soldiers killed

**In Kirawa community of Borno State, gunmen suspected to be members of Boko Haram, attacked a military formation, killing two soldiers, according to a source who pleaded anonymity.**

Emir of Gwoza, Alhaji Mohammed Shehu Timta, and Police Public Relations Officer, Borno State Command, ASP Kenneth Daso, confirmed the invasion of Kirawa, a border community with Cameroon, last Saturday night. According to sources and fleeing residents, the insurgents, operating in two groups, entered the town through Valle village and a filling station at about 9:30 pm, shooting indiscriminately. Residents alleged that the Commanding Officer (name withheld) was absent from his duty post during the attack. However, another source said one soldier was killed, while several insurgents also lost their lives to troops who eventually overwhelmed the insurgents, leading to the destruction of their base and looting of arms and ammunition. The attackers were also said to have abducted a female student (names withheld), while many residents fled across the border to a neighbouring community in Cameroon.

Speaking to Vanguard in a telephone interview yesterday, Emir Timta said: "Yes, I received a distress call from the District Head of Kirawa that armed terrorists invaded the town and caused havoc last Saturday.

"It is unfortunate and shocking to hear that the commanding officer was not on ground at the time. As it stands, many of my people have fled to Cameroon for safety."

Police spokesman ASP Daso, while also confirming the incident, said: "We have received the report on the Boko Haram attack in Kirawa community of Gwoza Local Government Area, but we are yet to ascertain the number of casualties."

Report of attack on troops in Kirawa fake, says Theatre Commander

But reacting to the report last night, the Theatre Commander, North-East Task Force 'Operation Hadin Kai', OPHK, Major General Abdulsalam Abubakar, said the report is fake.

He said the attack took place in Kirawa community of Cameroun where Camerounian soldiers were involved, and not Nigerian troops of OPHK as insinuated.

**In a short text message to Vanguard, General Abubakar said: “ It’s the Cameroonian Base in Kirawa that was attacked oooh; not Nigerian troops.”**

**He also shared videos and pictures of the attack which showed that the operational vehicles destroyed signified that of Camerounian troops.**

**The Theatre Commander therefore urged media practitioners to always verify information on any attack from military authorities before going to press in order not to pass wrong information to the public.”**