

Egypt kills 19 militants in Sinai

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Cairo: The Egyptian army killed 19 militants south of Sheikh Zuweid city in the restive North Sinai province on Saturday, the state-run Al-Ahram news website reported.

The security forces also arrested six terrorist suspects and destroyed 23 hideouts, 27 vehicles, two digging loaders and two motorbikes, Al-Ahram quoted security sources as saying.

On Friday, similar security operations killed 60 militants and wounded 40 others in Sheikh Zuweid and Rafah, according to a statement by the military spokesman.

Â Â Â **Increasing terror attacks have killed hundreds of policemen and soldiers nationwide since the military overthrew the former Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in July 2013.**

Last week, a mortar attack on a security checkpoint in North Sinai's Arish city killed 15 policemen.

Most of the anti-government attacks were claimed by a Sinai-based militant group calling itself "Sinai State" which vows its loyalty to the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

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