

January 2, 2026 by [Kolade Adeyemi, Jos](#)

Troops foil bandits' attack, kill five in Plateau



- ***Gunmen kill seven on New Year's eve***
- ***Kidnappers of 28 travellers cut ransom to N30m, demand three motorcycles***

Troops of 3 Division **Nigerian Army**, under Joint Task Force Operation Enduring Peace (JTF OPEP), have foiled a planned bandit attack on communities in Plateau State, killing five bandits during an intelligence-led operation.

A military source told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the operation was conducted yesterday as part of Operation Peace Shield in Wase Local Government Area of the state.

The source said the troops ambushed the Dutsen Zaki–Odare Forest axis after receiving a report that some bandits were mobilising to attack adjoining communities.

Apart from killing the bandits, two AK-47 rifle magazines loaded with 11 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, two machetes and a knife were recovered.

Also, gunmen struck at Bum village of Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State, killing seven residents.

In a statement, the National Publicity Secretary, Berom Youths Moulder Association (BYM),Rwang Tengwong, said the residents were attacked about 11:00 p.m. on December 31, last year.

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He added: "The incident came despite an earlier security alert, warning that several communities in Jos South council had been earmarked for possible attacks. Sadly, the Bum community has fallen

victim to this renewed wave of violence.

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“This latest attack adds to the growing list of violent assaults on innocent rural communities in Plateau State, further deepening concerns over the safety of lives and property, especially during festive periods meant for peace and celebration.”

Kidnappers of the 28 travellers abducted in Zak community of Wase Local Government Area have reduced the ransom from N42 million to N30 million.

The abductors have also demanded the relatives of the victims to provide three new brand motorcycles in addition to the N30 million.

The victims, including men, women and children, were heading to Sabon Layi community of the same Bashar District to attend a Maulud when the bandits intercepted their vehicle and took them to their den.

The kidnappers had on Tuesday contacted the victims' relatives, demanding N1.5m ransom per person, a demand the relatives said they could not afford, pleading with the kidnappers to release the victims.

However, on Wednesday, the kidnappers slashed the ransom to N30million and asked the relatives to buy three new brand motorcycles.

Babawo Gwadabe, a resident of Zak community, whose seven nephews and nieces, were among the victims, said: “We don't have that amount. It is huge. The community and relatives have raised a little amount, but they have refused to agree. We are really in tension and apprehension. Even if the money is provided, there is no certainty if they would release them because last year, my father was abducted and N3million was demanded. We paid; yet, they killed my father. We are confused. Only God can help us out of this trauma.”