

## News

April 19, 2026 by [Precious Igbonwelundu, Asst. News Editor](#)

# Terror 'kingpin' killed as troops arrests suspects in Nasarawa, Benue, Kwara



An alleged notorious terrorist leader, Kachallah Auwalu, has been killed in a violent clash between rival armed groups in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of **Kaduna State**.

This is as troops recorded multiple arrests of suspected kidnappers and terrorists in Nasarawa, Benue and Kwara states.

Security sources said Auwalu died on Saturday during fighting with a rival faction linked to Dogo Gide in the Maganda forest corridor, an area associated with repeated armed group activity.

According to counter-terrorism expert, Zagazola Makama, the clash, was part of ongoing rivalry among criminal factions operating across Maganda, Kuyello and Dogon Dawa, and was still on at the time of the report.

Troops under Sector 1 of Operation Fansan Yamma were placed on alert to monitor developments and exploit opportunities to neutralise fleeing fighters, while surveillance operations were intensified across Birnin Gwari and surrounding communities.

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In Nasarawa State, troops of Sector 2, Operation Whirl Stroke, arrested a suspected kidnapper on Friday at Atandara community in Akwanga Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. The suspect was handed over to the Nigeria Police Force for investigation.

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On the same day in Benue State, troops of Sector 1, Operation Whirl Stroke, arrested seven suspected terrorists during a clearance operation at Amila Icho and Chito communities in Otukpo Local Government Area. The suspects were transferred to the police for further action.

Similarly, troops under Operation Savannah Shield apprehended a suspected terrorist kingpin, Alhaji Kiruwa Usman, and an accomplice, Jemu Muhammadu, during an ambush at Woro village in Kaiama Local Government Area of Kwara State. Operatives recovered ₦328,000 and other items from the suspects.

Security authorities said the operations formed part of coordinated efforts to disrupt criminal networks, restrict their movement and improve safety across affected communities.

