

Troops kill notorious terrorist commander, foil attacks in Zamfara, Katsina



Two more ISWAP commanders surrender in Borno

Troops of Operation Fansan Yamma (OPFY) have killed a notorious terrorist commander, Alhaji Tukur, during an operation to repel an attack on farmers at Dogon Kade in Zamfara State.

The operation, conducted yesterday, also left several other terrorists with gunshot wounds as they fled the scene, according to the Media Information Officer of OPFY, Lt.-Col. Aliyu Danja.

In a statement, Danja identified the slain terrorist as the younger brother of notorious terrorist kingpin, Alhaji Shehu Bagiwaye.

He said troops of Sector 2 acted on credible intelligence of an impending terrorist attack on communities in Kaura Namoda Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

“Working alongside local security volunteers, the troops engaged the terrorists in a fierce gun battle and repelled the assault, forcing the attackers to retreat with several casualties,” he said.

Danja said, in a separate operation on the same day at Sabon Gari, also in Kaura Namoda Local Government Area, troops responded to reports of terrorist activities.

However, on sighting the advancing troops, the terrorists abandoned their mission and fled into nearby bushes.

He said a follow-up exploitation of the area led to the neutralisation of one terrorist and the recovery of a motorcycle used by the fleeing suspects.

The military spokesman added that troops on fighting patrol in Katsina State also recorded success after engaging terrorists along the Danmusa-Yantumaki axis in Danmusa Local Government Area.

The troops recovered two AK-47 rifles, two magazines loaded with 25 rounds of ammunition and one motorcycle from the fleeing terrorists.

Also, two more senior commanders of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) have surrendered to troops of Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK) in the Northeast.

This is coming days after several ISWAP commanders and a gunboat operator laid down their arms following sustained military offensives across the theatre of operations.

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In a statement, the Acting Media Information Officer of OPHK, Captain Mohammed Goni, said the two commanders, identified as Munzirs within the group's leadership structure, surrendered to troops of Sector 2 in Geidam, Yobe State, on July 4.

He said the suspects arrived in Maiduguri about 7:30 a.m. on July 5 and are in military custody undergoing profiling, debriefing and intelligence exploitation.

According to Goni, preliminary interrogation showed that the surrendered commanders occupied influential positions in the terrorist organisation and possessed extensive knowledge of its operations, command structure and logistics network.

“Initial intelligence obtained from the debriefing has provided valuable insights into the terrorists’ operational methods, sustainment mechanisms and support networks.

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“The information is expected to significantly enhance ongoing intelligence-led operations aimed at locating, disrupting and dismantling the remaining terrorist enclaves across the Northeast Theatre,” he said.

Goni noted that the surrender of the two commanders represents another significant setback for ISWAP and underscores the effectiveness of sustained offensive operations by Operation Hadin Kai, in collaboration with other security partners.

He said the combined land and air offensives, supported by enhanced intelligence gathering, have continued to restrict the terrorists’ freedom of movement, degrade their combat capability and weaken their command and control structures.

“The relentless military pressure has made continued resistance increasingly untenable for many terrorist leaders and fighters, forcing them to abandon the insurgency and surrender to troops,” he added.

The military spokesman said the latest development further reflects the disintegration of the terrorist group and the cumulative impact of sustained operations across the theatre.

He reaffirmed that Operation Hadin Kai remained committed to sustaining the operational tempo until terrorists were either killed or compelled to surrender.

“Troops will continue to exploit actionable intelligence, intensify offensive operations and work closely with relevant stakeholders to eliminate the terrorist threat and restore enduring peace, security and stability across the Northeast,” Goni said.