

# Army strikes Turji's hideouts, kills scores of bandits

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Nigerian Army troops have killed scores of armed bandits in camps linked to notorious kingpin, **Bello Turji**, during coordinated operations in Zamfara and Sokoto States.

According to reports, the targeted hideouts are located in the Fakai community in Shinkafi and Isa Local Government Areas.

A military source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the success was recorded during a fierce gun battle as part of ongoing operations against banditry in the region.

The source disclosed that the operation, led by the 8 Division Strike Force of the Nigerian Army, Sokoto, began in the early hours of March 20, with troops advancing into Turji's camp deep within the Kagara Forest.

However, during the advance operation, two combat support vehicles developed mechanical faults near Maberaya village in Isa local government area of Sokoto State, prompting a temporary halt in the troops' movement.

The military source disclosed that heavily armed bandits from Turji's camp launched an ambush, using high grounds and forested areas for cover which the troops swiftly responded with superior firepower, engaging the bandits and eliminating several of them in the encounter.

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"Three soldiers and one personnel of the Department of State Services (DSS) sustained injuries during the skirmish and were promptly evacuated to the 8 Division Military Hospital Sokoto for treatment," the source added.

Meanwhile, authorities have dismissed reports claiming that over 150 bandits drowned in a boat accident in the Sabon Gida area of Sokoto State.

"The news circulating that over 150 bandits drowned in a boat mishap in Sabon Gida area is a fake report," the source said.

The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Area Manager in Sokoto, Mr Bello Bala, also confirmed that the report was fake, adding that the River Sabon Gida area is currently not navigable.

(NAN)