

Police officer, two others killed as security forces repel attack in Katsina

Troops raid Munhaye forest, kill 65 bandits, Ado Aleiro's son in Zamfara Terrorists kill three in Plateau
Explosion kills four, cuts off border communities in Niger

From Aliyu Hamagam, Atahiru Ahmed and Isaac Shobayo with agency report

KATSINA State police command has confirmed that suspected bandits killed two civilians and a police officer during attacks along the Karadua Musawa Road in Matazu Local Government Area.

The incident occurred on Sunday, when the bandits reportedly blocked the road and opened fire on a moving Volkswagen Golf vehicle, killing two occupants on the spot.

In a statement in Katsina, on Monday, the command's spokesman, DSP Abubakar Sadiq-Aliyu, said security operatives quickly responded to the attack.

He said a team comprising police personnel, military operatives, members of the Katsina State Community Watch Corps and local vigilantes, was mobilised to the scene, following a distress report.

"The team swiftly dislodged the assailants and evacuated the victims to a nearby hospital," he said.

Sadiq-Aliyu added that the bandits later regrouped and attempted to launch another attack on the Musawa Police Division.

He said officers on duty successfully repelled the as-

sault after a fierce gun battle, preventing the attackers from overrunning the facility.

He explained that during the encounter, one police officer was killed while defending the station.

The *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* quoted the Commissioner of Police, Ali Umar-Fage, as saying that additional operational assets had been deployed in the area to strengthen security and forestall further attacks.

Also, troops of *Operation Fansan Yanma* in Zamfara State have raided Munhaye forest in Tsafe Local Government Area, killing several bandits, including Kachalla Iliya Sarki, a biological son of a bandits' leader, Ado Aleiro.

Munhaye forest is the camp of Aleiro, known for terrorising neighbouring communities of Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger states.

Spokesperson for *Operation Fansan Yanma*, Captain David Adewusi, confirmed the operation in a phone interview on Sunday, stating that the raid took place on Saturday.

Adewusi said troops launched a raid on the camp, adding that many bandits were killed in the process.

He said: "There was a major attack on Aleiro's camp

last Saturday in Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State, which resulted in the death of several bandits."

He maintained that the exact number of casualties was yet to be officially confirmed.

"I cannot confirm the exact number of bandits neutralised during the operation at the moment, but I can assure you that many of them were killed. We are still assessing the situation and will make the details public soon," he stated.

Meanwhile, a report published on the Nigerian Armed Forces and *Military News Facebook* page claimed that at least 65 fighters were killed during the operation, including Sarki.

Also, troops of *Operation Enduring Peace* have killed five suspected terrorists and arrested a suspected kidnapper, while dismantling several criminal hideouts in Wase, Qua'an Pan, and Shendam local government areas of Plateau State.

Operation Enduring Peace, in a statement signed by its media officer, Captain Chionso Polycarp Oteh, said troops carried out intensive clearance operations on Saturday in Babangida, Adua, and Bokayi villages within the Dutsen Zaki forest.

It added that while patrolling the Babangida-Adua

road, the joint team engaged armed terrorists in a fierce gun battle, leading to the death of two suspects, while others fled into the forest with gunshot wounds.

The statement added that a search of the area led to the recovery of one locally-fabricated firearm, a belt containing 105 rounds of 7.62mm PKT ammunition, 30 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, and a cutlass.

In another development, troops, while acting on credible intelligence reports on Sunday, intercepted four suspected terrorists in Namu District of Qua'an Pan Local Government Area around 7:45a.m.

"While attempting to dismantle the suspects' hideout, troops came under heavy fire from the terrorists. In the ensuing exchange, three of the four arrested suspects were killed by their colleagues' gunfire as they tried to escape.

"Later that morning at about 9:35a.m, troops, in collaboration with local residents, arrested a suspected kidnapper at Gidan Mangoro village in Shendam Local Government Area.

"The suspect is linked to a kidnapping incident that occurred in the area on April 3. He is currently in custody for further investigation."

Earlier, it was reported that terrorists, in the early hours of Monday, attacked Pwo-

mol community of Heipang District in Barakin-Ladi Local Government of Plateau State, killing three persons.

The gunmen targeted the vigilante members keeping an eye on the community after earlier learning of the attack.

The national publicity secretary of Berom Youth Moulder (BYM), Reng Tengwong, in a statement, said security operatives arrested one suspected attacker alive at about 1a.m around the Redemption Camp area between Heipang and Kassa.

The statement said the suspect was found with blood stains on his body and is currently in the custody of security operatives at Sector 4 in Barkin Ladi.

National president of BYM, Mr Dalyop Solomon Mwanitiri, condemned the attack and called on security agencies to conduct thorough and transparent investigation.

The group demanded that the suspect be promptly brought to justice and made to reveal information that could lead to the arrest of his accomplices and collaborators.

The *Nigerian Tribune* also gathered that the Special Task Force, Operation Enduring Peace, arrested some bandits who attacked Heipang community.

BYM commended the swift intervention of the task force, and urged residents of the area to remain vigilant and report suspicious movements to security agencies.

Efforts to reach the spokesman for state police command, SP Alfred Alabo, failed. Also, four persons were, on

Sunday, killed in an improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast, suspected to have been planted by terrorists along Babanna axis in Borgu Local Government Area of Niger State.

The explosion targeted the same bridge that was bombed barely two weeks ago, indicating organised campaign of destruction with a view to crippling movement and deepening fear across the neighbouring communities.

There are conflicting reports over the casualty figures, with sources indicating that one of the victims may not have died from the blast but was instead gunned down while attempting to cross the scene on a motorcycle.

A source familiar with security matters believed that the repeated bombing of the only access road linking Nigerian border communities to neighbouring Benin Republic is a deliberate strategy by the terrorists to block any form of emergency response.

A resident, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the vehicle caught in the explosion was conveying yams to the Babanna weekly market when it ran into the device.

When contacted, spokesman for the state police command, SP Abiodun Wasiu, confirmed the incident.

He said: "The miscreants shot one motorcyclist on the road dead, while a truck on transit to Wawa stepped on another IED, which exploded, damaged the vehicle, and the driver was affected."

Kaduna attack: IGP orders redeployment of DIG Operations

Jacob Segun Olatunji | Abuja

THE Inspector-General of Police, IGP, Olatunji Rilwan

Placid the move is to forestall further attacks and coordinate security efforts.

It explained: "On 5 April, 2022, bandits at-

to assess the situation on site and coordinate security efforts to restore order and secure the release of the abducted victims.

condition, awaiting reunion with their families."

The statement further explained that the IGP affirmed that operations

Four die, eight injured