

Insecurity: Army intensifies offensive, clears bandit camps in Bauchi

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Troops of the Nigerian Army in Odonget community in Obubra Local Government Area of Cross River State over the killing of their colleagues by the residents.

Nigerian Army has stepped up its offensive against bandits, recording fresh successes in ongoing clearance operations across criminal enclaves in Bauchi.

According to a report from Army Headquarters in Abuja, troops of the 33 Artillery Brigade, working in collaboration with the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), carried out a major clearance operation in the Dajin Madam Forest.

The operation led to the destruction of several bandit camps, including the notorious Azuge and Hari camps, significantly disrupting criminal activities in the area.

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Troops were said to have neutralised a number of bandits during the operation, while others fled under sustained military pressure.

In addition, 19 family members of the bandits—comprising six women and 13 children—were taken into custody, while several motorcycles used by the criminals were destroyed to limit their mobility

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Security forces also recovered a cache of items, including an AK-47 magazine, packs of tramadol, police and military uniforms, as well as two horses, indicating attempts by the criminals to impersonate security personnel.

The report noted that troops have since established a firm hold in the forest to consolidate gains and prevent any regrouping by fleeing bandits.

In a related development, troops conducted a follow-up operation in Mainamaji, as part of efforts to exploit gains from recent airstrikes on bandit hideouts. The operation recorded no contact, suggesting that sustained military pressure has weakened bandit presence in the area.

The Army reiterated its commitment to maintaining pressure on criminal elements until lasting peace is restored, while urging the public to support security agencies with timely and credible information.