

Security forces foil terror attack in Kogi, bandits suffer casualties

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THE Kogi State government has announced that a joint security operation involving the military, police, Kogi State Vigilante Service, and local hunters thwarted a suspected terrorist attack in Ikoyi, in Ijumu Local Government Area, of the state, averting what authorities described as a major security threat.

The incident occurred at 7p.m. on Saturday, when bandits invaded a gathering in the community with the intention of abducting residents.

Security operatives responded swiftly to distress calls, arriving within minutes and engaging the attackers in a fierce gun battle.

The rapid intervention dis-

rupted the operation of the criminals and forced them to flee into nearby forests.

Commissioner for Information and Communications in the state, Kingsley Femi Fanwo, in a statement on Sunday, commended the coordinated efforts of security agencies and local hunters.

He said the professionalism, courage, and synergy displayed by the security personnel prevented what could have resulted in a serious security crisis for the community.

Fanwo revealed that intelligence reports indicate several of the attackers sustained gunshot wounds during the exchange of fire before escaping, adding that security agencies have launched a manhunt to track down and apprehend the

fleeing suspects.

The commissioner, however, confirmed that one member of the Tiv community was killed during the crossfire, while another sustained gunshot injuries and is currently receiving medical attention.

Troops thwart Lakurawa, bandit attacks in Sokoto, rescue two abducted farmers

TROOPS of Operation Fansan Yamma and the 8 Division of the Nigerian Army have repelled separate attacks by suspected Lakurawa terrorists and bandits in Sokoto State, rescuing two kidnapped farmers and preventing further casualties.

A reliable security source informed journalists, on

Sunday, that the troops thwarted an attack by suspected Lakurawa terrorists on Magonho community in Tangaza Local Government Area on June 4.

The source who requested anonymity because he was not authorised to speak on the operation, said a civilian sustained a gunshot injury during the encounter and is receiving treatment.

The source credited the troops' swift response and vigilance for preventing greater harm, noting that their timely intervention helped protect lives and property in the community.

In a separate operation on the same day, troops of the 8 Division foiled a bandits' at-

tack on a Forward Operating Base (FOB) in Tidibale village, in Isa Local Government Area.

During the operation, two farmers, who had been abducted by the attackers, were rescued and taken to the General Hospital in Isa.

The source said the troops' prompt action forced the attackers to retreat, adding that the criminals suffered significant losses during the engagement, although details of the casualties were not immediately available.

CAN South-West raises alarm over surge in kidnappings

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), South-West zone region, has expressed concern over the resurgence of

kidnappings, banditry, and violent crimes across parts of the country, calling for immediate and decisive intervention from all levels of government.

In a statement on Sunday, signed by the South-West CAN chairman, Bishop (Dr) Barnabas Tunde Akin-Akinsanya, the association said the increasing frequency of abductions in states including Oyo, Ekiti, Ondo, Lagos, and other parts of the country has created widespread fear, insecurity, and uncertainty among citizens.

Akin-Akinsanya described the situation as no longer isolated incidents, but a "recurring national tragedy" that poses a serious threat to peace, economic stability, and social cohesion.