

Troops rescues kidnap victims, kill terrorist leader

Navy destroys illegal refineries, recovers 43,000 litres of petroleum products in Rivers

Jacob Segun Olatunji |
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THE Defence Headquarters, on Sunday, said the troops recorded significant successes in operations across the country within a week.

The exercise led to the rescuing of kidnapped victims, killing a wanted terrorist leader and dismantling illegal oil refining sites.

Director, Defence Media Operations, Major General Michael Onoja, disclosed this in a statement.

The statement said the troops of *Operation HADIN KAI* rescued six abducted farmers in Borno State, dismantled terrorist logistics facilities and arrested sus-

pected ISWAP informants and logistics suppliers.

It added that the troops rescued two more abductees, recovered ransom money and arrested a wanted criminal in Adamawa State with an AK-47 rifle and ammunition.

According to the statement, troops of *Operation FANSAN YAMMA* recovered weapons, rustled livestock and materials suspected to be for the fabrication of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) during operations in Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi and Zamfara states.

It added that *Operation WHIRL STROKE* troops neutralised a wanted terrorist kingpin identified as Puuga in

Benue State, recovered 249 rustled cattle in Kogi State and rescued several kidnapped victims in Benue and Kogi states respectfully.

It disclosed that *Operation DELTA SAFE* rescued 37 traders from sea pirates in Akwa Ibom State and dismantled illegal refining facilities in Rivers State, recovered more than 205,000 litres of stolen crude oil and illegally refined petroleum products.

In the South-East, it said troops raided criminal hideouts, recovered weapons and fake military uniforms and destroyed an illegal oil bunkering site containing 70 illegal pits in Abia State.

Also, the Nigerian Navy (NN) intensified its crackdown on crude oil theft in the Niger Delta region, as it dismantled four illegal refining sites and recovered about 43,000 litres of suspected illegally refined petroleum products during a fresh operation in Rivers State

This was contained in a statement by the Spokesperson of the Service Navy Captain Abiodun Folorusho.

The statement said the successful raid formed part of the ongoing *Operation DELTA SENTINEL*, intelligence-driven campaign against crude oil theft and economic sabotage.