

Military kills 12 terrorists, rescues Sokoto, Zamfara, Gombe hostages

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FILE: Nigerian Army

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Troops of the Nigerian Army and security forces have neutralised 12 terrorists and rescued multiple hostages during coordinated operations across Zamfara, Sokoto, and Gombe states.

The offensive is part of sustained efforts to dismantle criminal networks terrorising rural communities in the North-West and North-East.

In Zamfara, troops of the 8 Division Garrison Strike Force, operating under Operation Fansan Yamma, launched targeted raids on insurgent camps in the Sububu Forest, Maradun Local Government Area.

According to the Media Information Officer of Operation Fansan Yamma, Capt. David Adewusi, the operation was aimed at “dismantling terrorist enclaves and restoring peace to Zamfara State.”

“The troops displayed exceptional bravery and tactical efficiency in neutralizing the threats encountered,” Adewusi said. “During the offensive, two terrorists were killed in Indulumu village, and four more were neutralised in Ruduno village. We recovered two AK-47 rifles, ammunition, and destroyed motorcycles used for terrorist mobility.”

The follow-up sweep in the forest led to the destruction of several terrorist camps in Magaji, Galakaje, Filinga, and Kukatara, significantly degrading the group’s logistics and operational capabilities.

During the operation, troops also rescued an underage girl, Halira Ibrahim, who had been held captive.

“The rescue underscores our unwavering commitment to protecting vulnerable citizens and combating kidnapping in the region,” Adewusi added.

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In Gombe State, police tactical teams, working with local hunters and vigilante groups under Operation Hattara, neutralised three suspected bandits and rescued two hostages following attacks on Rahama and Lambo villages in Akko Local Government Area.

Tragically, a third abducted victim, Baayo Bayi, lost his life during the operation.

Gombe Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Buhari Abdullahi, said, “The suspects first attacked Rahama Village, killing an elderly man and abducting his two sons. They later stormed Lambo Village, abducting three more people. Our teams engaged the bandits swiftly, neutralising three of them and rescuing two victims. We recovered weapons, ammunition, motorcycles, and cash at the scene.”

In Sokoto, authorities confirmed the rescue of four hostages during coordinated raids on bandit hideouts, though details of neutralised terrorists were not immediately disclosed.

Security analysts say the operations mark a turning point in the fight against banditry, kidnappings-for-ransom, and cattle rustling that have displaced thousands and disrupted trade and farming in the region.

Captain Adewusi and Gombe State Police Commissioner, CP Umar Ahmed Chuso, reaffirmed the commitment of security agencies to protecting lives.

“We call on residents to continue providing credible intelligence,” Chuso said. “Our resolve to safeguard lives and property remains unwavering.”