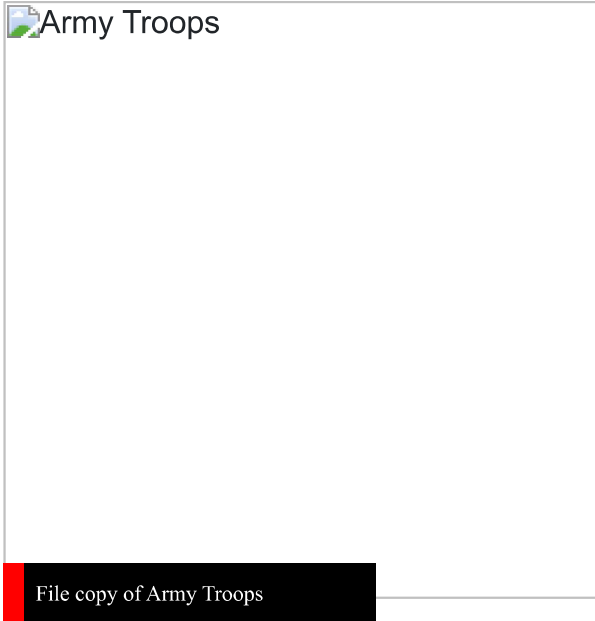


Security forces kill six, rescue eight in northern operations

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Troops of Sector 2, Operation Fansan Yamma, have intensified operations against criminal and terrorist enclaves across Sokoto, Zamfara, and Kebbi states, killing at least six suspected bandits and recovering arms and communication equipment in coordinated offensives conducted this week.

In separate operations, security forces achieved significant rescues.

Troops of Operation Whirl Stroke, in collaboration with the Benue Civil Protection Guard, successfully freed a 28-year-old kidnapping victim, Mrs Member Ityavber, in Tse-Ubena village, Katsina-Ala LGA of Benue State, and arrested two suspected armed herders.

Meanwhile, police in Zamfara State rescued a housewife and her six children, abducted by suspected bandits in Damba town, Gusau LGA, after confronting the gunmen and forcing them to flee.

The development is coming as the troops, working with other security agents, coordinated efforts to ensure security in the country.

The Nigerian Army said the renewed onslaught is part of efforts to protect vulnerable communities and dismantle criminal networks operating in the North-West.

In Sokoto State, troops of the COAS Intervention Battalion VII engaged terrorists in two separate encounters at Magonho Forest on March 25, neutralising three bandits. The operation also led to the recovery of three AK-47 rifles and motorcycles.

Zamfara recorded multiple breakthroughs on the same day, as troops laid a successful ambush along the Gada Maya–Makakari road, killing two terrorists and forcing others to flee.

Recovered items included an AK-47 rifle, three magazines, 55 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, a Baofeng radio, two mobile phones, and a motorcycle.

Later, troops foiled a retaliatory attack on Kaida Village, where assailants had accused locals of collaborating with security forces. One additional terrorist was neutralised, with another rifle recovered.