

Troops kill 4 bandits, rescue abductees in Benue, Taraba

Troops of Operation Whirl Stroke have neutralised four suspected bandits and rescued two kidnapped victims across Taraba and Benue states.

Acting Media Information Officer, Headquarters Joint Task Force (JTF), Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS),

Lieutenant Ahmad Zubairu Zubairu, said in a statement that troops recovered one AK-47 rifle and ammunition and also dismantled a notorious illicit drug network.

The statement further stated that the success followed reports of an armed herder attack along the Gbajimba-Agasha Road in

Guma Local Government Area of Benue State. Troops were immediately deployed to the scene and found two injured residents.

According to the statement, the victims were evacuated to the Primary Health Centre in Gbajimba for treatment, while a manhunt for the assailants is ongoing.

In Taraba State, on the same day, troops responded to an armed robbery alert along the Rafin Kada-Donga Road and engaged the criminals.

The statement further stated that troops neutralised two armed robbers and recovered one AK-47 rifle with three magazines, ammunition and a cash sum of N39,950.

It added that on May 25, 2026, troops responded to a kidnapping report along the Antegh-Zongo Road in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State. They quickly intercepted the abductors, who abandoned two victims and fled. One suspect was arrested, while the rescued victims were reunited with their families.

In a separate operation, troops conducted an intelligence-based operation against a notorious illicit drug syndicate.

Ekiti community protests as kidnappers hold 16 victims despite N10.5m ransom payment

Residents of Eda-Oniyo Community in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ekiti State have staged a peaceful protest, calling for urgent intervention from the state and Federal Governments, as well as security agencies, over the continued captivity of 16 kidnapped residents despite the payment of a N10.5 million ransom.

The protesters, comprising community leaders, relatives of the victims, women and youths, said the abductees had remained in captivity for 36 days, with the kidnappers now demanding an additional N50 million for their release.

The victims were abducted on April 28, 2026, when suspected bandits attacked a Christ Apostolic Church (CAC) during a service in the community.

The attackers reportedly killed the presiding pastor and kidnapped 16 worshippers.

According to residents, the kidnappers initially demanded a N1 billion ransom, which was later reduced to N150 million before being further reduced to N50 million.

Speaking during the protest, a community leader, Ayodele Ajayi, said communication with the captives had continued intermittently, but efforts to secure their release had so far proved unsuccessful.

“Our people have been in captivity for 36 days. We contributed what we could as a community and paid N10.5 million, but the kidnappers refused to release them. Instead, they are demanding more money