

Bello Turji Claims Victory In New Video After Sokoto Explosion Kills Soldiers



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...as military confirms intelligence on bandit leader's arms training

Notorious bandit leader, Bello Turji, has reportedly released a new video claiming victory after an explosion allegedly killed soldiers in Sokoto State, as fresh security concerns have emerged over alleged efforts by his group to acquire new weapons and strengthen its fighters along the Sokoto-Zamfara border.

This is as the Nigerian Army confirmed that it received intelligence that Turji and his loyalists are conducting weapons training and tactical drills in Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto East Senatorial Zone.

According to the Acting Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, 8 Division, Lt. Col. Osoba Olaniyi, the military is aware of the intelligence reports and is actively assessing the situation, assuring that appropriate security measures are being implemented.

The incident followed reports that at least two soldiers were killed and several others injured when an improvised explosive device exploded on a military vehicle carrying troops to Bargaja Community in Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

The troops were reportedly responding to a distress call after armed bandits attacked the community in the early hours of Saturday. Residents said the attackers invaded the village between 12:30 a.m. and 3:00 a.m., shooting indiscriminately and forcing locals to seek military intervention.

A resident alleged that the attackers planted an explosive device along the Isa-Bargaja road before the troops arrived. Following the incident, Turji was seen in a video expressing satisfaction over what he described as victory against those carrying out operations against his group.

In the video, he claimed that his fighters had killed some of their opponents and recovered livestock allegedly taken from them. Claims made in the video could not be independently verified at the time of reporting.

However, intelligence sources alleged that training activities are taking place in several communities including Bingabale, Bafarawa, Bar- gaja, and Gebe, all within the Eastern Senatorial District.

The area has remained a known operational zone for Turji's network. Security sources further alleged that the exercises involve armed fighters loyal to Turji, including close associates such as Illa Manawa and Dodo, reportedly his younger brother.

The group is said to be undergoing military-style drills and weapons handling using newly acquired arms. Preliminary assessments suggest the weapons may form part of a recent supply delivered to the group, raising concerns over an increase in firepower among armed gangs operating in the region.