

# One dies, 25 terrorists killed, several others wounded in Borno clashes

By Ndahi Marama

**M**AIDUGURI—**TROOPS** of the Joint Task Force (North East) Operation HADIN KAI OPHK, have killed 25 Boko Haram and ISWAP fighters, lost one soldier, and injured several others while repelling coordinated terrorist attacks in Limankara and Kukawa, Borno State.

The assaults, launched on the night of February 20, 2026, targeted multiple fronts but were swiftly repelled, underscoring the growing operational pressure on terrorist camps, logistics routes, and leadership networks across the region.

Lt. Col. Sani Uba, Media Information Officer of JTF OPHK, said troops conducted precision operations in Lamuseri Village, Gujba LGA, a known terrorist hub and logistics base. During the operation, 15 terrorists were killed, defensive structures were destroyed, and weapons, ammunition, and vehicles were either recovered or set ablaze. Scores of insurgents fled the area with gunshot injuries, he added.

Earlier, terrorists attempted to infiltrate the Forward Operating Base, FOB, Limankara, but alert troops engaged them in a fierce firefight, combining ground forces and air support. The assailants were forced to retreat, leaving behind casualties. No troops were harmed in this engagement, according to Uba.

In Kukawa, terrorists launched a coordinated multi-pronged attack using gun trucks, motorcycles, and foot soldiers, approaching from multiple axes. Troops mounted a determined defense, supported by air strikes, which destroyed a gun truck, five motorcycles, and neutralized ten additional fighters. Troops subsequently recovered rifles, loaded magazines, radios, stretchers, and shallow graves left by fleeing insurgents.

Lt. Col. Uba commended the troops for their courage, discipline, and operational excellence, noting that the

series of engagements has significantly degraded terrorist capacity in the region. He emphasized that these operations reflect the growing desperation of insurgent groups under sustained military pressure. The officer added that persistent air and ground

coordination continues to deny terrorists freedom of action, disrupt their logistics, and compel them into chaotic withdrawals, thereby enhancing the safety of local communities.

"While one gallant soldier paid the supreme price, the injuries sustained by other

personnel are being treated, and all are stable. The military remains resolute in its mission to dismantle terrorist networks, protect civilians, and restore lasting peace and stability across Borno State and the wider North East region," Uba said.

## NDLEA nabs woman with drug-laden fake pregnancy, CEO drug kingpin

By Kingsley Omonobi

**O**PERATIVES of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, have foiled attempts by drug traffickers to smuggle cocaine and opioids concealed in a fake pregnancy and ingested wraps through the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport, MAKIA, Kano, and the Seme border in Lagos.

A 35-year-old Kano-based businesswoman, Rabi Muhammad, was arrested at the Seme border on February 16, 2026, while attempting to cross into Cotonou, Benin Republic, with a protruding stomach. A body search revealed her pregnancy was fake. She had strapped a pink calabash to her abdomen, concealing 3,200 capsules of tramadol intended for sale in Cotonou.

On the same day in Kano, NDLEA operatives at MAKIA intercepted a 41-year-old Ivorian, Michael Gohouri (alias Anunwa Onyinye Michael), during clearance for Ethiopian Airlines flight ET940 to Milan via Addis

Ababa. A body scan confirmed he had ingested illicit drugs. He later excreted 82 wraps of cocaine weighing 1.49kg.

Investigations showed Gohouri arrived in Lagos from Milan on January 17 and shuttled between Lagos and Enugu before travelling to Kano, where he ingested the drugs.

He was to be paid \$5,000 upon delivery in Milan.

He reportedly obtained Italian residency in 2013, valid until May 25, 2026, and also holds a Nigerian National Identification Number.

In a related development, NDLEA arrested the Chairman/CEO of Trans Fortress Global Resources, Kolapo Oladapo Raji, 57, described as a drug kingpin.

He was apprehended on February 12, 2026, at his Lekki residence in Lagos after returning from the UK. Recovered from his home were 89.2kg of "Canadian Loud," a strong strain of cannabis, and a 2024 Toyota Hilux vehicle.

He reportedly confessed to financing drug consignments

before establishing his own distribution network.

Other operations across the country led to multiple arrests and seizures.

In Lagos, suspects were caught with 56kg and 76kg of skunk in separate raids. At the Port Harcourt Ports Complex, Onne, Rivers State, 170,900 bottles of codeine syrup were uncovered in a container during a joint examination with Customs and other agencies.

Along the Okene/Lokoja highway in Kogi State, operatives recovered 7,300 tramadol pills concealed in sound systems, leading to the arrest of two suspects in Abuja. In Ondo forests, 393kg of skunk was seized from two suspects, while in Bauchi, 936kg and an additional 85.8kg were recovered from multiple suspects.

Further seizures were recorded in Delta and Edo states, where over 1,266kg of skunk was destroyed on farms and suspects, including a 68-year-old grandmother, were arrested.

## Gunmen kill 2 herders, slaughter 3 cattle in Plateau

By Golok Nanmwa

**JOS**—**GUNMEN** have reportedly killed two teenage herders and slaughtered three cattle in Plateau State.

In a statement yesterday in Jos, the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, MACBAN, Plateau State chapter, through its State Chairman, Ibrahim Yusuf Babayo, said the incident occurred on

Saturday evening in Jol village, Riyom Local Government Area of the state.

He identified the victims as Muhammad Sani, and Furuk Bilyaminu, claiming the corpse of Bilyaminu was still missing at the time of the press statement. According to the statement, the herders were grazing when they were shot by the attackers, who also killed three cattle. MACBAN described the incident as "senseless" and the latest in a series of alleged targeted attacks on herders in the state.

"As a law-abiding group, we have reported the incident to security authorities, including the Department of State Services (DSS), Police, and Operation Safe Haven (formerly Operation Enduring Peace), for immediate action.

"This is not the first time our people have been targeted. We seek protection and justice. We will not be provoked, but we demand urgent action from the state and federal governments to protect our people."