

In new video, terrorist leader, Turji boasts of killing soldiers

•As troops repel terrorist invasion, foil mass abduction

By Musa Ubandawaki

SOKOTO — Notorious bandit leader, Bello Turji, has appeared in a new video claiming responsibility for the killing of two soldiers involved in a rescue operation in Sokoto State on Saturday.

This comes as Nigerian troops and other security agencies successfully repelled a separate terrorist attack and foiled a planned mass abduction in another part of the state.

It was gathered that the soldiers were killed and several others injured when an improvised explosive device, IED, detonated on a military vehicle conveying troops to Bargaja community in Isa Local Government Area. The troops were responding to a distress call following a bandit attack on the area in the early hours of Saturday.

Residents said the attackers invaded the village between

12:30 a.m. and 3:00 a.m., shooting sporadically and forcing locals to call for military intervention.

A resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, alleged that the attackers had planted an IED along the Isa-Bargaja road ahead of the arrival of the troops.

In the video circulated online, Turji expressed satisfaction over the incident, claiming his group had recorded success against security forces and rival elements.

The authenticity of the video and his claims could not be independently verified at the time of filing this report.

He said: "We thank Allah for allowing us to witness this Saturday, June 20... Allah has granted us victory over those who have been rustling our livestock and killing our innocent brothers in Isa, Zamfara, Sokoto, Sabon

Birni and other local government areas."

He further claimed that his group had killed some of their opponents and recovered livestock. Security sources have not confirmed these claims.

Meanwhile, troops of the 8 Division of the Nigerian Army, alongside police operatives, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and local security outfits, repelled a separate terrorist attack on Tureta, headquarters of Tureta Local Government Area, foiling what authorities described as a planned mass abduction.

The attackers reportedly stormed Tureta on Sunday afternoon but were confronted by a joint security response led by soldiers from the Forward Operating Base in Tureta and operatives of the Anti-Kidnapping Unit of the

Sokoto State Police Command.

Chairman of Tureta Local Government Area, Aliyu Abubakar Tureta, said the attackers were forced to withdraw after a fierce exchange, adding that camels, cattle, and two motorcycles were recovered from the fleeing assailants.

The Sokoto State Police Command confirmed the incident, stating that no lives were lost and no resident was abducted. Police spokesperson, DSP Ahmad Rufai, said operations had been extended to Doruwa and Matseri villages along the Gusau Road axis to prevent the criminals from regrouping.

Authorities assured residents that ongoing joint security operations would continue until fleeing terrorists are tracked down and normalcy is fully restored across affected communities.