

Troops recover livestock, destroy cattle rustlers' camps


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The Nigerian Army yesterday said troops of Operation Sharan Daji have cracked down on cattle rustlers, armed banditry, kidnapping and other criminal activities in various states in the North-western part of the country.

A statement by Army spokesman, Colonel Sani Usman, said the troops have recorded major successes against rustlers, killing several of them. He said the troops also destroyed their camps and recovered many livestock, arms and ammunition.

He said: "In Zamfara State, the troops killed four rustlers, wounded 16, arrested three and destroyed seven of their camps. The troops also recovered 486 livestock, two machetes, three AK-47 rifles and four magazines from the criminals."

"In Katsina State, the troops killed five rustlers, arrested two of them and destroyed five camps. They recovered an AK-47 rifle, four locally manufactured guns and 12 machetes. The troops also recovered 116 livestock from the rustlers. Unfortunately, one of the soldiers sustained injury and is responding to treatment," he added.

Usman said in Kaduna State the troops recovered 305 livestock, two locally made pistols, three bows and arrows and four machetes. The troops also killed two armed rustlers, arrested seven suspects and destroyed six camps belonging to the criminals.

"In Kano State's Doguwa forest, one rustler was killed and the rustlers' camp destroyed. The troops recovered 126 cattle, 331 sheep, 10 donkeys and three camels from the rustlers", the Army said.

Usman noted that "deep" operations by troops of 1 Division Nigerian Army in conjunction with other security agencies, deployed in the various states are ongoing to flush out kidnappers, cattle rustlers and other armed criminals.

He further stated that following reliable information on the presence of some Boko Haram terrorists, troops of 113 Battalion conducted a fighting patrol to Dunga general area on Thursday, during which they discovered and destroyed a terrorists' camp at Alajeri village in Guzamala Local Government Area of Borno State.

He said during the operation, "the troops killed 40 Boko Haram terrorists and recovered one General Purpose Machine Gun, one Rocket Propelled Grenade, six AK-47 rifles, two Fabrique Nationale rifles, 10 magazines, 188 rounds of 7.62mm (NATO) ammunition and 64 rounds of 7.62mm (special) ammunition."

He added that other items recovered by the troops included three mobile phones, six copies of the Quran and 20 motorcycles.