

Troops overrun bandits, release captives in Zamfara

The Defence Headquarters says the troops of Operation Hadarin Daji deployed in Zamfara State have continued to close in on the bandits in the state.

It also stated that troops had also neutralised many of such criminals and released kidnapped victims from their holds, in the last one week.

The Acting Director Defence Media Operations, Brig.-Gen. Benard Onyeuko, disclosed this in a statement on Sunday.

Onyeuko said the troops, in a subsidiary operation 'Chingaba', successfully released 12 kidnapped victims and united them with their families, including the District Head of Wuya, who was kidnapped a week earlier.

① He added that in other clearance operations conducted at Gidan Usman, Gidan Babagoji, Gadauna, Gidan Janari, Kekuwaje, Gidan Sarki, Gardi and Bingi all in Bungudu Local Government Area, the troops killed nine bandits.

Onyeuko disclosed that 14 bandits were also arrested; while 13 houses belonging to them were cleared and set ablaze by troops.

According to him, a total of 67 cattle rustled by the bandits were recovered and handed over to the district heads of the communities.

"In the same vein, troops engaged some bandits who attacked Julee Village and rustled goats.

"The bandits came under the fierce firepower of the troops, abandoned the goats and fled into the forest.

"The troops recovered the goats and handed over to the owners.

"Similarly, troops on patrol at Nasarrawa Village, close to Tunga Haki in Gusau Local Government Area intercepted nine suspected bandits and recovered 600 cows and 300 sheep.

"After due interrogation, the bandits confessed to have rustled the animals and were proceeding to Zaria, to avert possible arrest by the troops," he said.

Onyeuko added that the recovered animals were currently in the custody of troops.

He said proper handover would be done after investigation, in conjunction with local authorities to confirm the owners. (NAN)