

Troops recover body of missing herder, rescue rustled cattle in Plateau

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

Troops of Operation Safe Haven (OPSH), the multi-agency task force maintaining peace in Plateau State, on Friday recovered the body of a missing 16-year-old herder and rescued more than 50 rustled cattle.

Weekend Trust gathered that the operation was carried out in collaboration with other Fulani herders following the disappearance of the teenager, Abdullahi Muhammad, and the alleged rustling of over 70 cattle in the Ariri community of Bassa Local Government Area.

The young herder was reported missing while grazing cattle in the area earlier this week.

However, the Secretary General of the Irigwe Development Association (IDA), Danjuma Auta, had earlier denied reports of cattle rustling in the community, instead alleging that members of the Irigwe ethnic group had suffered a series of deadly attacks in recent weeks.

Confirming the recovery, Ya'u Idris, Chairman of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) in Bassa, said the boy's body was found in a shallow grave near a riverside in the Ariri general area by OPSH troops alongside other herders.

He said the victim was beheaded, with his left hand severed.