

Nine die in separate Sokoto attacks

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• Govt's hammer may fall on banned security residents on movement of troops, equipment • Military alerts Kaduna to monitor wards • Jigawa urges parents to monitor wards • Ortom condoles with Tambuwal over killing of 43 by bandits • Ex-B'Haram fighters protest in transit camp

SOKOTO State Police Command has confirmed that nine persons died in separate attacks by bandits on three villages of Sabon Birni Local Council.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Abubakar Sanusi, told newsmen that the separate attacks took place from November 15, to 17, 2021.

According to Sanusi, the first attack, which occurred at Garin Zago in Sabon Birni, resulted in the death of three persons while three others were kidnapped.

He said another attack was on a vehicle in Gaji village, without casualties.

Another attack at Sangirawa village claimed six lives and many others injured by the gang of bandits, he added.

Police said based on investigation, a total of nine persons died, which contradicted the figures being circulated.

SECURITY agencies are set to carry out a major crack-down on National Taskforce on the Prohibition of Illegal Importation/Smuggling of Arms, Ammunition, Light Weapons, Chemical Weapons and Pipeline Vandalism, for defying Federal Government's ban on its operations throughout the country.

The Guardian gathered that the illegal security outfit, known as NATFORCE, allegedly became emboldened in its illegal activities, having lured some influential Nigerians, particularly some retired security personnel and members of the National Assembly with employment promises for their preferred candidates.

The group has reportedly issued 18,000 fake employment letters to Nigerians after collecting between N6,000 and N35,000 from

the beneficiaries. One Dr. Baba Mohammed, identified as its Director-General, signed a copy of NATFORCE's purported appointment letter, sighted by *The Guardian*.

The Federal Government had, last June, declared NATFORCE an illegal security outfit and directed it and other similar groups to immediately end their operations nationwide.

In another development, the Armed Forces Command and Staff College (AFCSC), Jaji, Kaduna State, has said that its second bi-annual field training exercise involving movement of troops and military equipment will begin on November 22.

AFCSC Public Relations Officer (PRO), Major Ajemasu Jingina, stated in Kaduna, yesterday that the training, code-named 'Exercise Ubiak-Isin', would

be held along Jaji-Labar-Dunki-Bina-Wazata general area in Igabi Local Council.

According to him, necessary preventive measures have been put in place for security of the area; hence he advised the general public to keep off the vicinity during the exercise, which will end on November 26.

WORRIED by insecurity challenges, Jigawa State Government has advised parents to be security-conscious and monitor the movement of their wards.

In a statement, yesterday, the Special Adviser on Media and Public Relations to Governor, Nuhu Abubakar, stressed that the call became imperative due to prevailing security situation, as reported cases of missing children and abductions were on the increase in some local councils of Jigawa.