

Troops neutralise bandits linked to kidnap of Yauri schoolgirls, others

From AbdulGaniyu Alabi, Kaduna

Recover arms, ammunition, drugs

TROOPS of the Nigerian Army have neutralised two alleged bandit kingpins, identified as Bodejo and Boderi Isyaku,

The duo were said to be the masterminds of several high-profile kidnappings, including that of the Yauri schoolgirls, Greenfield University, and attacks at Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), along the Bada-Riyawa axis, on the Kaduna-Birnin Gwari road.

They were killed alongside other bandits during an ambush by the troops.

Army spokesperson, Major General Onyema Nwachukwu, who confirmed the development, also revealed that ongoing operations in the Igabi, Giwa, and Birnin Gwari Local Councils of Kaduna State resulted in the neutralisation of insurgents.

He said during a firefight along the Maganda-Dausayi - Mugaba axis, insurgents using rustled herds of cattle as shields engaged troops. "In the ensuing hour-long battle, troops neu-



Isyaku

tralised two insurgents and recovered weaponry, including an AK-47 rifle, ammunition, and various items."

He explained: "In a separate operation along the Bada-Riyawa axis on the Kaduna-Birnin Gwari road, troops ambushed marauding insurgents, neutralising six and recovering weapons and motorcycles.

"In the ensuing firefight that lasted about an hour, troops neutralised two of the insurgents and recovered one AK-47 rifle, one AK-47 magazine,

three rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, one Tecno phone, three Hilux vehicles, motorcycle keys, wraps of a substance suspected to be marijuana, Tramadol tablets, and N13,200."

He said: "Unfortunately, in the encounter, some of the rustled livestock used as shield by the insurgents were caught in the crossfire. Troops are still on the trail of the fleeing insurgents and remain resolute on ridding the area of armed violence."