

Kaduna villagers accuse NAF of bombing community, killing 25

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The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) dealt a heavy blow to the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) by eliminating scores of the members of the terrorist group

Residents in the Jika da Kolo community in Yadin Kidandan, Giwa Local Government Area of Kaduna State have raised an alarm that a Nigerian Air Force

^ carried out following credible intelligence indicating a huge presence of terrorists and their weapons cache in the Yadi Forest.

Specifically, the villagers alleged that the victims included 23 worshippers at a mosque and others at a market in the area who were erroneously killed during the operation, contrary to claims by the Air Force authority that scores of terrorists were confirmed killed during the strike and that there was no mosque in the area.

The councillor representing the area, Abdullahi Ismail, confirmed the incident, saying the area was a danger zone because of the activities of terrorists.

In addition, speaking to journalists, one of the villagers said that among the victims were farmers and children who were at the community mosque on the ill-fated day.

According to him, the strike disfigured the bodies of most of those affected.

He said, “Twenty-three mutilated bodies were gathered from the scene and had been buried according to Islamic rites. We gathered body parts of 23 people who were identified by relatives, including children, and they have been buried.

“Of course, Yadin Kidandan is a danger zone because it is under the control of bandits. But there are also innocent villagers who still live around there because they have no other place to go, just like the casualties that we witnessed on Friday. So, we discovered that when the strike occurred, most of the people at the mosque died.

“It was a crowded place because there was a local market close to the mosque, which was also affected. The incident happened around 2 p.m.”

One villager described the chaos that ensued after the bombing, saying “Yes, it is true that there was a strike by a plane on Friday at a mosque in Jika da Kolo village that claimed many lives, including a few from our village who went to their farms

^ heard a loud sound because I was in a nearby village.

“Thereafter, family members of the victims went to the scene and recognized their relatives for the funeral. With little investigation, those who threw the bomb should have established that the bandits don’t live within the villages; they are in the bushes. It is a difficult moment for us.”

The villagers, therefore, called on the Federal and Kaduna State governments to investigate this incident, saying most of them were still living around the areas because they don’t have any other place to go.

While reacting to the villagers, the Deputy Director of Public Relations and Information, NAF, Group Captain Kabiru Ali, said the airstrikes were only targeted at the logistics base of terrorists.

He said there was no mosque in the area, based on pictorial evidence of how the location was before and after the operation, as the operation was carried out following credible intelligence indicating a huge presence of terrorists and their weapons cache in the Yadi Forest.

According to him, reports from independent sources, including local informants around the general area, confirmed that the logistics base was totally destroyed and scores of terrorists were killed as a result of the attack.

“Intensive intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance confirmed the consistent presence of terrorists and their motorcycles at the location. Additional intelligence revealed that the logistics base belonged to the notorious terrorist kingpin Kadade Gurgu, a close ally of Dogo Gide.

“Furthermore, available intelligence at the disposal of the NAF Air Component revealed that Kadade Gurgu has been providing shelter for notorious terrorist kingpins following the aggressive military operations in Sokoto and Zamfara states.

approached, some of the terrorists were seen emerging from under the shrubbery and running away from the area.

“Subsequently, the targets were engaged, recording successful hits on the logistics facility, which was engulfed in flames with thick black smoke seen. Reports from independent sources, including local informants around the general area, later confirmed that the logistics base was totally destroyed and scores of terrorists were killed as a result of the attack.

“The Nigerian Air Force, in collaboration with surface forces, will continue to dominate the battlespace through extensive situational awareness, constant patrols, and targeted interdiction of bandits’ safe havens within its area of responsibility and neighbouring states. The aim is to decimate and flush out terrorism and criminal activities within the North-west and North-central geopolitical zones,” he added.

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