

News

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Plateau demands troops' withdrawal as bandits abduct, kill 12 in Zamfara, Sokoto

By Najib Sani

THE Plateau government has expressed doubt about troops deployed in parts of the state, demanding their withdrawal.

This followed last week's killing of 27 farmers in a state that has witnessed the murder of many this year.

In a statement, the government asked that the soldiers be replaced with mobile police squads.

Reacting to the development via a statement by Special Adviser to the Governor on Peace and Security, Chris Kwaja, the government also urged the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa, to raise a special board of inquiry to investigate the

• Kaduna police arrest notorious hoodlum

recurring attacks "focusing on the actions and inactions of the military personnel" stationed in the areas.

The state government also requested the federal government to support sub-national initiatives such as Operation Rainbow in addressing pervasive insecurity.

"This change in approach is necessary to ensure a more effective and responsive security strategy that prioritises fighting against asymmetrical warfare, which the MOPOL is conversant with," Kwaja wrote.

THIS is even as bandits have again struck in Zamfara State, abducting over 100 farmers at Jengebe Village in

Talatan Mafara Local Council.

The incident occurred over the weekend, with the bandits returning on Sunday evening, and recording no catch.

According to reports from RFI Hausa Service monitored yesterday, nine farmers were killed in their farms during the raids.

The medium quoted the state government as saying it had responded swiftly to the situation.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Security, Ahmad Dan Manga, said the government was on top of the situation, and would dispatch a delegation to the area.

He added that soldiers and vigilantes have been deployed

to enhance security.

ALSO, hoodlums on Sunday night invaded Dabagi community in Dange-Shuni council area of Sokoto State, killing three residents and abducting others.

The attackers, on arrival, shot sporadically and caused panic among locals before fleeing with their captives.

A post yesterday by security analyst, Bakatsine, on X read: "Bandits attacked Dabagi community in Dange-Shuni LGA of Sokoto State last night. They killed three people and kidnapped an unspecified number of male and female residents."

A resident, who also confirmed the incident, said the assailants operated for several minutes without resistance,

whisking away victims into the bush.

"They came in large numbers and started shooting.

Three people were killed instantly, and they went away with several men and women," he said.

Court declines Yahaya Bello's travel request over unsigned medical report

From Ameh Ochojila, Abuja

THE Federal High Court, Abuja, yesterday, turned down a request by the immediate past Governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello, seeking the release of his international passport, saying the medical report attached to the application was not signed by its maker.

Justice Emeka Nwite, while delivering the ruling at the resumed hearing of the alleged money laundering case filed against the ex-governor by the Economic and Financial

for the release of his travel document to enable him to travel to the United Kingdom for medical attention.

The judge said counsel to the defendant argued that the applicant had been a known hypertensive patient for about 15 years.

The lawyer, Joseph Daudu (SAN), was also said to have presented Exhibits A and B, which constituted an expert report on the health status of the applicant, saying sufficient materials had been placed before the court to exercise its