

Troops Kill Five, Arrest Four Bandits In Kaduna

By **Our Correspondents** - July 29, 2019

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Troops of 1 Division, Nigerian Army have neutralised five bandits and arrested four others in two separate operations in Chikun and Igabi local government areas of Kaduna State.

Col. Ezindu Idimah, Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, 1 Division, Nigerian Army, made the disclosure in a statement issued in Kaduna on Sunday.

Idimah said troops of 'Operation Harbin Kunama III' dislodged a bandits' camp in Dagu village of Igabi Local Government Area on July 24, following credible information.

"During the operation, two bandits were neutralised and one was apprehended. Others evidently escaped with gunshot wounds.

"Troops also rescued two kidnapped victims, Mallam Yakubu Hamidu and Alhaji Isa Saidu, from the bandits' den around Makarfi Farm junction in Igabi LGA on July 25.

"Two motorcycles belonging to the criminals were also destroyed during an exchange of fire."

He noted that the residents of Dagu village had commended the army for destroying the bandits' hideouts who have been terrorising villages in the area.

Idimah disclosed that the second operation was conducted on July 25 by troops of 'Operation

Thunder Strike', around Kubuso, Kuso and Kakumi general areas in Chikun Local Government Area.

"Following the operation, three bandits were neutralised, three were arrested and two kidnapped victims were also freed."

He listed items recovered from the bandits to include: one AK47 rifle, a single barrel rifle, one Dane gun and 28 rounds of special ammunition.

Also recovered were two motorcycles, one camouflage uniform, two ATM cards, a Techno phone, one Airtel sim card and empty cases of 5 x 7.62mm special ammunition.

He appealed to the general public to report anybody seen with gunshot wounds to the nearest security post for investigation.

The General Officer Commanding, 1 Division, Nigerian Army, Maj-Gen Faruk Yahaya, commended the troops for their efforts and charged them not to relent until the bandits were effectively annihilated.

Similarly, troops of 'Harbin Kunama III' of the Nigerian army in a joint operation with troops of 'Operation Hadarin Daji' have intercepted and neutralised some notorious bandits and their collaborators in Katsina State.

A statement by Lt. Mohammad Yahaya, Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, 17 Brigade, on Sunday, said the clearance operation was carried out in collaboration with personnel of the Nigerian police.

Yahaya said that the clearance operation, which was aimed at destroying all bandits' camps in Katsina State had yielded tremendous results.

He said that the troops conducted a cordon and search exercise while acting on credible intelligence reports at Yar Santa village in Kankara Local Government Area and environ.

According to him, at the peak of the exercise, one Monday Chikwunka, 36, an indigene of Delta State alongside sixteen other bandits specialised in rustling cows, killing and kidnapping of citizens were rounded-up.

"Preliminary interrogation and confessional statements by the suspects revealed that the gang are responsible for most criminal activities in the state and its localities.

"The ring leader, Monday Chikwunka, also served as medical aid of these criminals by providing medical assistance to the wounded bandits who sustain gunshot wounds and their families.

"He confessed treating the pregnant wife of one of the most notorious bandits, Dogo Nahallt, who is still at large.

"The suspects have been handed over to the appropriate security agency for further investigation and prosecution," he said.

Yahaya also disclosed that troops while on clearance operations, encountered a group of fleeing bandits and neutralised one of the criminals who tried to escape.

He said that many camps belonging to the bandits were destroyed and items which included two AK47 rifles, four AK47 magazines and 10 rounds of 7.62 mm were recovered from the scene.

Other items recovered from them, he said, were six locally made Dane guns, one revolver pistol, one locally made revolver rifle, 20 mobile phones and two motorcycles.

According to him, troops will continue to exploit by combing all hideouts of the bandits with the view to denying them freedom of action.

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