

# Abducted Victims Escape As NAF Jet Raids Bandits' Camps, Kills Scores

By Our Correspondents On Nov 30, 2021

FEATURED NEWS



The air component of *Operation Gama Aiki* (OPGA) eliminated scores of armed bandits in Niger State.

Some civilians abducted by the bandits and held hostage in makeshift structures escaped during the military bombardments.

It was gathered that a Nigerian Air Force (NAF) attack jet killed the criminal elements during air interdictions raid at bandits' camps in Kusarsu, a community along Abuja-Kaduna highway.

According to a military intelligence officer, who was involved in the operation, credible intelligence had revealed the presence of suspected bandits' hideout and logistics base at Kusarsu, while movement of some bandits from Kusarsu towards Kaduna-Abuja road was also observed, earlier within the week.

The source said that large number of armed bandits were also gathered at settlements in Gauda and Dutse Magaji.

“Subsequently, Nigerian Air Force (NAF) aircraft under OPGA were scrambled in the early hours of November 26, 2021 to take out the targets.

“Overhead Kusarsu, the NAF combat crew sighted several armed bandits gathered at the locations and subsequently launched a coordinated strike after which the location was seen engulfed in flames.

“The aftermath of the strike also revealed remnants of surviving bandits fleeing the location. It was also observed that about 50 metres from the target location, several persons suspected to be kidnapped victims were observed escaping out of a makeshift structure and fleeing to nearby civilian settlements.

“Similar strikes by NAF platforms at bandits’ locations in Gaude and Dutse Magaji had the same effects as remnants of the bandits were observed to be scampering from the location.

“Feedback from locals as well as own deployment around Kusarsu revealed that 67 corpses of bandits have been counted during assessments of the destroyed logistics bases of the terrorists.”

Other sources said that persons seen escaping from a makeshift structure were indeed kidnapped victims who took advantage of the air strikes on the bandits’ location to escape.

The bandits operating along Kusarsu axis orchestrated the attack on a train along Kaduna-Abuja rail track on October 20, 2021.

There is also strong indication that several bandits may have been neutralised at Gaude and Dutsin Magaji after the air strike. Of recent, these sustained attacks by NAF aircraft in conjunction with ground troops as well as other security agencies have continued to yield the expected outcome.

Only last week, precisely on November 20, 2021, NAF aircraft under *Operation Hadarin Daji* struck bandits’ location at Dankandi and Tsakai area of Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

The strikes were believed to have led to the deaths of key bandits and their cohorts, thus enhancing the security of the locations and its citizenry.