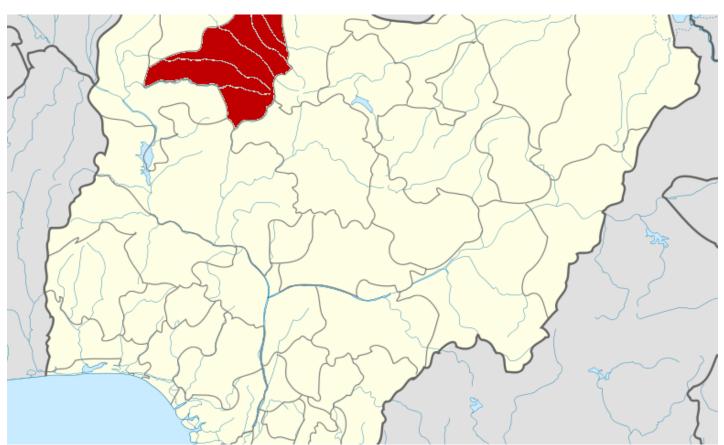
Air Force bombs kill 30 bandits in Zamfara

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The Nigerian Air Force last night said over 30 armed bandits have been killed in Zamfara State as it continued its air strikes on the hideouts of bandits in all their locations in the state.

The spokesman for the Air Force, Commodore Ibikunle Daramola said in a statement that ground troops of operation Sharan Daji were also involved in the operation leading to the elimination of the bandits.

The statement reads: "The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) Air Task Force (ATF) for Operation DIRAN MIKIYA, yesterday, 23 August 2018, successfully executed air strikes that

destroyed more armed bandit camps in Daji Bawar and Sunke Villages in Zamfara State.

"The strikes were planned on the heels of intelligence reports indicating that some bandits who had survived the intensive air assaults on their various hideouts at Shinkafi, Galadi, Ajia, Shamashalle and other areas of Zamfara State had relocated to Anka Local Government Area (LGA) of the State.

"Accordingly, the ATF embarked on intensive Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions to confirm the exact location of the new camps.

"Eventually, the criminal elements were observed to have pitched there tents at Daji Bawar and Sunke Villages.

"The ATF therefore launched coordinated air strikes on the camps in the two villages with a force package of 2 attack helicopters.

"Overhead the target area, several bandits armed with automatic weapons were seen at both locations.

"They were engaged leading to the destruction of the camps and their means of transport while scores of them were killed. Troops of Sector 3 Operation SHARAN DAJI later confirmed that over 30 armed bandits were neutralized while many others suffered injuries.

"The ATF will continue to dominate the area through armed reconnaissance and air interdiction missions to completely decimate the armed bandits in order to ensure a return to normalcy in Zamfara and other States in the Northwest.

"All persons involved in armed banditry in the area are therefore advised to renounce violence, surrender to security agencies and hand over their weapons."