

Troops kill 42 bandits

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Troops fighting bandits in the Northwest

By Okodili Ndidi, Abuja

Troops have killed 42 terrorists and bandits across theatres of operation in the North of the country in the last two weeks, the military said yesterday.

The operatives also apprehended 41 suspects and rescued 93 abductees in the area, spokesman Brig.-Gen. Bernard Onyeuko said in Abuja.

He said troops of Operation Hadin Kai killed 16 Boko Haram-ISWAP fighters, and arrested 29, adding that 40 abductees were rescued in the Northeast, adding that the operations were facilitated by land and air interventions.

“Cumulatively, the operations led to the neutralisation of 16 BHT/ISWAPs as well as arrest of 29 of them, while 40 civilians were rescued. BHT and their families, five female adults and 12 children were arrested at FOB Mayanti and Darajamel on July 15,” he said.

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“Troops also recovered one General Purpose Machine Gun, four AK-47 rifles, 50 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition and one belt containing 296 rounds of 7.62 mm NATO ammunition, accessories for making IED among other items,” he said.

He said troops killed 14 bandits, arrested 24 and rescued 36 victims in their operations.

He added that troops also assisted one of the victims to deliver a baby safely during one of the encounters.

Speaking further, he said seven AK47 rifles, six motorcycles, assorted military and police uniforms, six vehicles and four machetes, among other items were recovered within the period.

“Also, a total of 24 criminal elements were intercepted and arrested, including 16 bandits’ informants/collaborators and an impostor by name Faisal Saidu who paraded himself as Lance Corporal Saidu Abubakar.”