

Troops kill 'terrorists', rescue five kidnap victims

TROOPS of Operation Hadarin Daji (OPHD), the military joint taskforce in the Northwest have killed many terror suspects. They rescued five victims of kidnapping and recovered firearms and ammunition.

The criminals were said to have been neutralised in Zamfara, Kebbi, Sokoto and Katsina states in sustained onslaught against armed violence in the region.

It was gathered that troops of Sector 1, OPHD, between Tazame and Tabani villages under Bungudu Local Government Area of Zamfara State, at the weekend rescued some commuters on the Tsafe-Gusau Highway kidnapped by bandits.

Troops of Forward Operating Base (FOB) Garin Hausawa similarly received information that large numbers of armed bandits were sighted at Madobiya village in Danko- Wasagu Local Government Area of Kebbi State, which prompted the troops to mobilise to the village and confronted the criminals who fled, leaving three victims behind.

In Sokoto State, troops of the Special Forces while on routine patrol along Gundumi and Marnona road, came in contact

•Kingpins mull ceasefire over sustained military onslaught

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with armed bandits at Gundumi Village, which led to the death of one of the criminals while others fled with gunshot wounds.

The Nation gathered that an AK-47 rifle with a magazine loaded with 7.62 special ammunition was recovered from that encounter.

Troops attached to Sector 2 OPHD, Katsina State killed three suspected bandits while on routine patrol along Jibia, Magama and Maidabaru road.

The deceased were said to be among a large number of armed bandits the troops came in contact with. Others, it was learnt, fled with gunshot wounds.

In the course of the operations, two soldiers were said to have sustained injuries and were currently receiving treatment at a military facility.

Meanwhile, the sustained onslaught on criminal gangs in the region, *The Nation* gathered, had forced terror kingpins to contemplate surrendering.

Four terrorist kingpins operating in Zamfara and Katsina states are said to have held

meetings on ways to surrender to troops and seek amnesty from the government following huge losses they had suffered as a result of intense air bombardments by the Nigerian Air Force (NAF).

A military source told *The Nation* yesterday that the kingpins were already reaching out to people and associations in the states persuading them to speak to the government to grant them amnesty after they had surrendered.

According to the source, among the terrorist leaders that may surrender are Usman Kachallah, Abdullahi Danda, Alhaji Shingi, Lauwali Dumbulu, and Buda Dankarami (AKA Gwaska).

Giving details about how the terrorist leaders have been meeting over the past two weeks, the source said: "On 15 July 2023, Katsina-based terrorist kingpin, Usman Kachallah, met with his cohorts somewhere near Gusami village in Birnin Magaji Local Government Area of Katsina State to discuss the situation they have found themselves and seek ways of approaching the government for an amicable settlement of the security situa-

tion.

"During the meeting, it was alleged that most of the kingpins agreed to lay down their weapons to pave way for peace but were worried of the continued aerial bombardment which has targeted their respective houses, lives and animals.

"Some have even suggested the need to approach some ethnic associations and groups to speak to the government on their behalf."

The source said similar frustration was also expressed by a terrorist leader in Zamfara, Buda Dankarami (AKA Gwaska), over the continued aerial bombardment of his hideouts around Tsanu forest in Birnin Tsaba district of Zurmi local government area of Zamfara State.

The source said Dankarami's frustration stems from the continued elimination of his close associates, animals and other valuables.

"He has also expressed worry that despite changing his location on a weekly basis, the military have continued to locate his hideouts with precision that makes him realise that he can no longer trust those around him and his life was on