

A wee-hour operation yesterday by troops of Hadarin Daji in Zamfara State left at least 10 suspected terrorists dead while nine victims kidnapped from Sokoto State were rescued.

Many of the criminals were said to have drowned in a swampy river as they fled the battlefield while two of them were arrested.

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One of the victims, a female, was said to have been killed by the criminals during the exchange of fire with the troops, while the others were successfully handed over to the appropriate authority to be reunited with their families.

The Nation learnt that the operation was executed by troops of the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Danmarke who received credible intelligence on the movement of terrorists from Sokoto to Zamfara through Gadazaima village.

The troops were said to have immediately mobilised to ambush the criminals and a gun battle that lasted over four hours ensued when the opposing sides made contacts.

The criminals who lost 10 of their fighters in the gun duel, were said to have surrendered to the superior fire power of the military and escaped into surrounding bushes with bullet injuries, abandoning their victims.

The troops, it was gathered, recovered six AK-47 rifles, 1PKT Machine Gun, five Magazines, 20 rounds of 7.62MM special ammunition, three mobile phones, two solar panels, a sewing machine and N2,410,000 from the criminals.