

Troops recover human skull, arms from bandits' hideout



Troops of the newly established Forward Operating Base (FOB) Wukari of the 6 Brigade, **Nigeria** Army/Operation Whirl Stroke have discovered a human skull, arms and ammunition used by suspected kidnappers while on a two-day clearance operation across parts of Southern Taraba.

The operation which took place between 19th and 20th of June, was aimed at identifying criminal hideouts in Wukari and Takum local government areas.

According to the Spokesman of the Brigade, Captain Olubodunde Oni, in a statement, the troops also succeeded in recovering several ammunition after overpowering the bandits.

The statement read: "On 20 June 2025, troops continued clearance operations through Chanchangi, Jam Kaanan, Hingir, Ukum, and Nbaume villages in Takum LGA without enemy contact.

"However, at Mande Atsager, identified as the hideout of wanted bandit leader VERIOR JOHN GATA, troops encountered hostile fire. The bandits, overwhelmed by the troops' superior firepower, fled into the surrounding forest, abandoning their camp.

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"A search of the location revealed a building with four in-built detention cells, suspected to have been used to hold kidnapped victims pending ransom payments.

"Troops also discovered a shrine containing a human skull, suggesting the use of occult practices in support of criminal activities. The entire area was cleared, and the camp was destroyed

"Further operations extended to Ikayior village, known to be the home of another wanted criminal, AKIKI UTIV, alias "FULL FIRE."

"Troops uncovered and dismantled a bandit camp within the village. A search of the premises led to the recovery of 14 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition loaded in an AK-47 magazine. The camp was subsequently destroyed to prevent its future use by criminal elements.