

Troops neutralize 11 terrorists, arrest 64, rescue kidnapped victims in nationwide operations



Troops of the Nigerian Army have killed 11 terrorists and arrested 64 others in their ongoing onslaught against adversaries nationwide.

The troops also arrested 16 illegal miners, including one Nigerian, and recovered some weapons and other items.

A military source told The Nation on Friday that the ongoing onslaught is part of the Army's efforts to dismantle terrorist networks, disrupt criminal activities, and safeguard national resources nationwide.

According to the source, troops of 222 Battalion and 145 Battalion in the Northeast repelled attacks by Islamic West Africa Province (ISWAP) at Alau Dam in Borno State, killing eight terrorists and recovering weapons.

"Troops of 192 Battalion also intercepted terrorists' logistics in Gwoza Local Government Area, while 144 Battalion arrested three suspected terrorist logistics suppliers in Adamawa State with smuggled items."

The source revealed that troop operations in the Northwest have continued to deliver heavy blows on bandits, neutralizing them and destroying their hideouts.

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"In Katsina State, troops of 17 Brigade neutralized two terrorists at Malali Bridge, and recovered a motorcycle, radio, and phones, while 1 Brigade in Zamfara State neutralized another in Shinkafi, recovering an AK-47 rifle, livestock, and other items.

"Whilst in Sokoto and Zamfara, troops recovered 93 rustled animals and rescued two kidnapped victims. Additionally, troops in Kankara rescued a kidnap victim earlier abducted at Maitsiga Village."

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Equally, troops intensified counter-crime operations in Kaduna, where 27 suspects were arrested across multiple raids in Sabon Tasha, Kakuri, and surrounding areas, with seizures of illicit drugs and weapons

In the Northcentral zone, according to the military source, troops have continued to maintain momentum against kidnapers, extremists, and bandits, taking the battle to their enclaves and rescuing captives.

The source said, "In Kogi State, troops of 126 Battalion rescued a kidnapped man and his two children, recovering five Dane guns, while air and ground offensives in Lokoja neutralized insurgent movements.

"Also, in Plateau State, troops arrested a notorious insurgent informant, Abdurahman Bega, linked to a wanted terrorist leader, and separately apprehended an armed militia member with an AK-47 rifle and ammunition, while in Kwara State, troops of 22 Brigade captured an AK-47 rifle with ammunition and a motorcycle from insurgents during patrols.

"In Abuja, Guards Brigade troops arrested 16 illegal miners, including one Nigerien national and a fake Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) operative, while seizing motorcycles, mining equipment, generators, narcotics, and other items."

The source said troops have also sustained momentum against oil thieves in the South South and Southeast regions, recovering stolen petroleum products and arresting oil bunkers.

"In Imo, Abia, and Rivers States, soldiers discovered large quantities of illegally refined petroleum products, including 5,000 litres of stolen crude and over 3,000 litres of refined products, and arrested two suspects in possession of illegal substances.

“Elsewhere in Edo State, troops rescued a kidnapped tricycle operator in Esan South East Local Government Area, recovering his tricycle, while in Rivers State, troops arrested two suspected oil thieves and seized mobile phones along with illegally refined diesel and Kerosene,” the military source said.