

Troops kill terrorists, arrested suspects with N8.7m



- ***17 kidnap victims rescued in Kogi***

Troops have killed several terrorists and arrested three suspects with N8.7 million in ransom during ongoing operations in the Northwest, Northeast, and Northcentral regions.

The operations carried out between September 8 and 10 also led to the arrest of criminal suspects, the recovery of weapons, and destruction of five illegal refineries in the Southsouth.

Also, security operatives have rescued 17 passengers kidnapped by gunmen in Kogi State. The passengers, victims, including 13 adults and four children, were on a commercial bus when they were kidnapped at Apamaro in Adavi Local Government.

Commissioner for Information and Communications, Kingsley Fanwo in a statement said they were rescued by the Army and hunters.

He said the passengers had been taken to health facilities for attention.

A source at Army Headquarters told The Nation yesterday that on September 9, troops from Forward Operating Base Malumfashi, in collaboration with police and vigilantes, engaged the terrorists who had attacked Na'lma Special Hunters Camp in **Katsina State**, killing one and recovering an AK-47 rifle with 21 rounds of ammunition.

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“Similarly, on the same day, troops of 144 Battalion on offensive operations along Takaskala–Gwoza road in Borno State engaged ISWAP/JAS terrorists, forcing them to retreat in disarray and capturing an AK-47 rifle with 13 rounds of ammunition.”

“Furthermore, on 8 September, troops of 1 Brigade at a checkpoint in Zamfara State intercepted three suspects conveying N8.7 million ransom meant for release of abducted relatives.

“The suspects and the money were handed over to the Department of State Services for further investigation,” it was learnt.

According to the military source, troops from 8 Division foiled a kidnap attempt near Tasha Bagaruwa in Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State, rescuing three abducted farmers after a gunfight with terrorists. While troops of Forward Operating Base Sanga apprehended a suspected kidnappers’ informant linked to several abductions in Nasarawa and neighbouring states.

In the Northcentral, the soldiers arresting a suspected militia in connection with the September 4 Barkin Ladi reprisal attack in Plateau State while in Lagos State, troops of 65 Battalion nabbed an impostor posing as a soldier at Ebute-Metta, recovering incriminating evidence from his phone.