

## One officer, two soldiers die in operation as troops kill 55 bandits, rescue 760 victims

Attahiru Ahmed | Gusau

group during an encounter with bandits in Kagara forest.

**T**ROOPS of the Nigerian Army have killed 55 bandits, arrested 24 suspects, rescued 760 kidnapped victims, while recovering rocket-propelled gun-tube, pump-action gun, among other weapons and ammunition in Zamfara and neighbouring states.

The operations also resulted in the loss of an officer, two soldiers and some members of the vigilance

The Acting Force Information Officer, Major Clement Abiade, in a statement he signed and made available to the *Nigerian Tribune*, said troops of Operation Sharan Daji would continue to patrol the areas to curb the activities of bandits.

Major Abiade said: "Our troops have maintained day and night patrols, gone deep into the forests, followed the bandits' routes

and denied them freedom of action, with the assistance of locals who we have confidence in."

He disclosed that the intensity and redoubled efforts in the conduct of military activities in the past week had achieved tremendous successes, leading to the recovery of weapons, ammunition and rustled cattle in the state.

According to Force spokesperson, "as a result of military operations in the affected areas, including

several encounters with bandits, troops of Operation Sharan Daji have killed 55 bandits, while 24 suspected bandits' informants, cattle rustlers, kidnappers and logistics suppliers had been arrested."

He said the arrested suspects had been handed over to the police for investigations and prosecution.

"The Air Component of Operation Sharan Daji carried out several air strikes around Kagara, Gando, Fankama, Fete and Dumburum forests

and this led to the rescue of 760 abductees, which consist of men, women and children from communities in Zamfara State.

"Troops also recovered four AK-47 rifles, one Rocket-Propelled Gun-Tube, 12 dane guns, 27 AK-47 magazines, 168 rounds of 7.62mm (Special) ammunition, one pump-action gun, 47 motorcycles, a Golf Wagon car, 61 rustled cattle, three pounds of marijuana, nicotine and tramadol.

"The sustained military operations led to the return of over 1,000 Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) from Maru to Bindin village on February 17

The last one week has been traumatic for the people of Zamfara, especially in Shinkafi, Anka and Zurmi, where bandits carried out coordinated attacks that led to death of many.

The Operation Sharan Daji was established to check cases of banditry in Zamfara and neighbouring states.