

Troops kill, intercept notorious bandits, collaborators in Katsina

TROOPS of Harbin Kunama III have successfully conducted a joint operation with troops of 'Operation Hadarin Daji' and personnel of the Nigeria Police to clear bandits and other reported cases of robbery, cattle rustling and kidnappings in Katsina State.

The clearance operation, aimed at destroying all bandits' camps in the state, yielded results.

Assistant Director, Army

Public Relations, 17 Brigade, Lieutenant Muhammed Yahaya Isa, said acting on credible intelligence reports, the troops conducted a cordon and search exercise at Yar Santa village in Kankara Local Government Area and its environ.

According to him, at the peak of the exercise, one Monday Chikwunka (36), an indigene of Delta State, and 16 other bandits who specialised in rustling cows, killing and kidnapping of citizens, were intercepted.

He said preliminary interrogation and confessional statements by the suspects revealed that members of the gang were responsible for many criminal activities in the state.

Also, the ring leader, Monday Chikwunka, served as medical aid of these criminals by providing medical assistance to the wounded bandits who sustained gunshot injuries together with members of their families.

He confessed to treating

the pregnant wife of one of the most notorious bandits, Dogo Nahalli, who is still at large.

The suspects have been handed over to the appropriate security agency for further investigation and prosecution.

The 17 Brigade spokesman added that in a similar development, troops, while on clearance operations, encountered a group of fleeing bandits, killing one of the criminals who tried to escape, while

many camps belonging to the bandits were also destroyed.

He said items recovered from the scene were two AK47 rifles, four AK47 magazines and 10 rounds of 7.6mm six locally-made dane guns, one revolver pistol, one locally-made revolver rifle, 20 handsets and two motorcycles.

Isa noted that the locals expressed optimism and appreciation while commending the efforts of the Nigerian Army as well as

other security agencies for ensuring the safety of lives and properties.

He said the troops would continue to do exploit by combing all hideouts of the bandits, with a view to denying them freedom of operation.

Isa enjoined the general public to assist the troops and other security agencies by providing credible information on any suspicious activity and/or movement of persons or goods.