

Troops kill terrorists' top commanders, 48 others in Zamfara

Rescue 18 hostages, recover arms, ammunition

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THE Nigerian Army high command on Monday said troops in the North-West have killed 48 terrorists and rescued 18 people held hostage in the first phase of its newly-launched Operation Tsare Mutane, established to flush out criminals in the region.

This was contained in a statement made available to newsmen in Abuja by the Director of Army Public Relations, Brigadier-General Mohammed Yerima.

Yerima said among the bandits killed were four top commanders, namely Yellow Mai-Bille, Sani Meli, Dan-Katsina and Sama'ila Bakajin Bari, while the bandits' leader in the area, Jummo, sustained gunshot injuries and fled with other wounded fighters.

The Army spokesperson said items recovered from the bandits include eight AK-47 rifles, one G3 rifle, one PKT gun and a machine gun.

He added that soldiers, in another operation, destroyed several bandits' camps around Gabiya,

Bozaya and Mereri and in adjoining forests in Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

Yerima said troops recovered 4,600 rounds of ammunition, two AK-103 rifles, eight AK-47 magazines, 1,628 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 54 rounds of PKM, one motorcycle and five Tecno mobile phones.

The statement reads: "Troops of 8 Division, Nigerian Army, operating in Zamfara and adjoining states, made tremendous progress in the ongoing fight against banditry and other violent crimes in the

North-West.

"The Division had earlier launched 'Operation Tsare Mutane' following the directives of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant-General Ibrahim Attahiru, to stabilise the area in order to facilitate the return of socio-economic activities.

"The General Officer Commanding (GOC) the Division, Major-General Usman Yusuf, launched the first phase of Operation Tsare Mutane, which lasted from March 23 till April 2, 2021 in Maradun Local Government Area of Zam-

fara State.

"The troops successfully cleared many bandits' camps in Jaya, Kaday and Bayan Ruwa among several others.

"The troops also successfully neutralised 48 bandits, while the bandits' leader in the area, Jummo, sustained gunshot wound to his leg.

"The troops rescued 18 kidnap victims from the bandits' enclave, while eight AK-47 rifles and one G3 rifle, as well as one PKT gun and a machine gun were recovered from the bandits.

"Meanwhile, in continu-

ation of the second phase of Operation Tsare Mutane, troops sacked several other bandits' camps around Gabiya, Bozaya and Mereri and adjoining forests in Maru LGA of Zamfara State from April 19 till May 3.

"The areas which were heavily infested by bandits were successfully cleared by the highly-spirited troops. Key bandits' leaders, including Yellow Mai-Bille, Sani Meli, Dan-Katsina and Sama'ila Bakajin Bari were neutralised in the process, while the main leader, Nasanda, narrowly escaped with gunshot injuries."