

14 teenagers, 31 others quit ISWAP/ Boko-Haram, surrender in Borno

Again, troops storm Zamfara forest, kill 45 bandits

ABOUT 45 people, including 14 teenagers and 31 others, who were hitherto fighters of the Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) groups, on Monday surrendered to troops in the North-East.

PRNigeria gathered that the repentant terrorists publicly renounced membership at Konduga Local Government Area of Borno State.

It was further gathered that the ex-fighters turned themselves in to the battalion commanders and troops of **Operation Hadin Kai**.

According to a military intelligence operative who craved anonymity, the former members of the terror groups did not surrender themselves together with their weapons.

"Among the 45 terrorists who surrendered, 21 are from Garin Dinya and 24 from Jaja Kalwa villages," he said.

Five of the ex-Boko Haram-ISWAP fighters, while speaking to **PRNigeria**, said they were forcefully conscripted to join the terrorist groups.

Modu Malaram from Jaja Kalwa said: "**Wallahi**, most of us were young or weak to fight the Boko Haram commanders who picked us from our villages."

On what gave them the gut to surrender, Malaram said the division between the terrorists' groups distracted their commanders and emboldened members like him to become 'recalcitrant.'

"After the death of Shekau, there were infighting and divisions, which made some of us happy. And then, the aerial bombardments by the military were sustained, which forced many of us to flee our forest camps. This is what made us to come out and surrender," he added.

In another development, coordinated strikes by air platforms and assault by ground forces under Operation Hadarin Daji (OPHD) of the Defence Headquarters has led to the eliminations of 45 bandits gathered for a meeting in Sububu forest in Zamfara State.

PRNigeria gathered that local and foreign high-profile bandit leaders were struck at the designated location, which happened to be a bandits' leader, Halilu Tubali's residence at the North of Sububu forest.

A top military intelligence officer told **PRNigeria** that upon receipt of information of a planned gathering of bandits at Sububu forest, the Air Component of OPHD was immediately activated to initiate and maintain ISR missions over the forest.

It further gathered that land forces within the vicinity of the forest were also alerted to prepare for an assault on the bandits once air strikes on their gathering had been executed, just as operatives of Department of State Services (DSS) kept surveillance on their movement.

The officer said: "At about 2.24 p.m. on August 6, intelligence filtered of the arrival of the bandits, as well as the positive sighting of Halilu Tubali among a host of other high-profile targets.

"Subsequently, an Alpha jet was dispatched to the target location. On sighting many of the bandits dressed in black, the Alpha jet engaged with rockets in a first pass, neutralising scores of them.

"Few wounded bandits scampering in disarray after the strikes were promptly intercepted by ground troops who stormed the location after the air strikes."