

# Troops kill 42 terrorists, capture 20, rescue 63 victims in N'East ·Destroy 167 illegal refineries, arrest 18 alleged oil thieves

**T**HE Defence Headquarters says troops of Operation Hadin-Kai have killed 43 terrorists, arrested 20 and rescued 63 kidnapped victims across the North-East within three weeks, the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)** has reported.

The Director, Defence Media Operations, Major-General Bernard Onyeuko, said this while briefing newsmen on the operations of the armed forces between April 28 and May 19, on Thursday in Abuja.

Onyeuko also said that

1,627 Boko Haram terrorists and their families, comprising 331 men, 441 women and 855 children, surrendered to the troops at different locations between May 1 and May 14.

He said that 53,262 had so far surrendered as of May 16. Onyeuko said that troops killed Malam Shehu, who was the Amir and spiritual head of the group and some of his foot soldiers during a clearance operation in their enclaves at Jaje, Mango Ali, Dissa, Balangaje.

He said the troops had on May 14, killed Abubakar Sarki,

a terrorists' commander and his fighters in Sambisa forest at Yuwe in Konduga Local Government Area of the state.

According to him, troops apprehended Malam Modu Pantami at the outskirt of Benishied village in Kaga Local Government Area, while attempting to transport large quantity of logistics items to terrorists.

"Consequently, during these operations, troops rescued 63 civilians, neutralised 42 terrorists, and arrested 20 terrorists.

"Troops also, recovered two LMGS, 21 AK-47 rifles, 11 AK-

56 rifles, 22 MGs, 419 rounds of 7.62mm and 54mm ammunitions, one gun turret, 31 AK-47 magazines, three motorcycles, and six bicycles.

"Other items recovered are one pumping machine, two bandolier belts containing 377 rounds of 7.62mm and 54mm ammunition and one Isuzu vehicle.

"All surrendered Boko Haram terrorists, recovered items, rescued civilians and captured terrorists have been handed over to appropriate authorities for further actions," he said.

In Operation Whirl Stroke,

Onyeuko said the troops eliminated 13 bandits in clearance operations across Benue and Taraba states during the period.

According to him, troops recovered 27 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, one motorcycle and eight phones.

The Defence spokesperson also said troops of Operation Delta Safe and Operation Dakatar da Barawo, discovered and destroyed 167 illegal refineries in Niger Delta in three weeks.

In Operation Delta Safe, Onyeuko said the troops destroyed 17 illegal refineries

with five wooden boats, 89 storage tanks, 59 ovens, 12 dugout pits, six pumping machines, five trucks, two out-board engines and two weapons.

He said a total of 778,500 litres of crude oil, 840,300 litres of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) and 625 litres of Dual Purpose Kerosene (DPK) were also recovered.

He added that 18 criminals were also arrested during the period, adding that all recovered items and apprehended criminals were handed over to the appropriate authorities for further investigation.

**Suspected killers of police**

