

Troops rescued three Chibok girls with children, 19 abductees —DHQ

...Says military not involved in oil theft • 252 terrorists neutralised, 556 surrender

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THE Defence Headquarters (DHQ), on Thursday, disclosed that the troops of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and other security forces had again rescued three abducted Chibok girls with their children and 19 others.

It also said over 200 terrorists were neutralised, including five high-profile commanders of the dreaded Boko Haram Islamic of West Africa Province (ISWAP), in the last two weeks in the renewed efforts to end insurgency activities in the country.

Director, Defence Media Operations, Major General Musa Danmadami, stated this in Abuja at the bi-weekly press briefing on the operational activities of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and other security agencies from the various operational theatres

across the six geopolitical zones of the country.

Danmadami explained that a total of 556 suspected Boko Haram and ISWAP members and their families, consisting of 115 adult males, 189 females and 252 children, surrendered to Nigerian troops at different locations during the period under review.

According to him, "troops rescued three abducted Chibok girls, identified as Jinkai Yama, Falmata Lawal and Asabe Ali, who were on serial three, 20 and 24 of the abducted Chibok girls' list. They were rescued at different locations with their children and 19 other abductees.

"Also, a suspected foreign logistic supplier and arms dealer to the Boko Haram Terrorists/Islamic State of West Africa Province named Mallam Abatcha Bukar was equally arrested with assorted injections, 2 Automated Teller Machine Cards

and the sum of N294,520.00 only."

Danmadami said that the rescue operation took place when Troops of **Operation HADIN KAI** conducted operational activities at the fringes of various villages and communities in Yobe State.

He explained that the land and air component of **Operation Hadin Kai** in a coordinated attack on identified terrorists' enclaves in Borno State neutralised a large number of the insurgents, while the land component mopped up the fleeing terrorists.

He further added that all the arrested suspects and recovered items had been handed over to the appropriate authority while the surrendered terrorists and their families were being profiled for further action.

However, earlier on Wednesday, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Asso-

ciation of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), had called on President Muhammadu Buhari, to take immediate action to hold the Nigerian Naval, Army and Airforce chiefs accountable in their role in the perennial oil theft in the Niger Delta region of the country.

PENGASSAN president, Festus Osifomade the call when he addressed the media and teeming members of the association at the Unity Fountain Abuja, during its rally against pipeline vandalism and oil theft, where he tasked the Nigerian Army, Navy and Airforce to prosecute and jail officers who are conniving with criminals to perpetrate the crime.

But, Danmadami described as untrue and misleading accusation by PENGASSAN that military personnel were involved in oil theft in the Niger Delta region, saying such allegations were false and misleading.

Reacting to the allegation during the press briefing, he disclosed that the troops of **Operation Delta Safe** discovered and destroyed 67 illegal refining sites, 11 wooden boats, 218 storage tanks, 168 cooking ovens, and 61 dugout pits within the period under review.

"Troops also recovered 2.07 million litres of crude oil, 706,000 litres of Automotive Gas Oil, 15,500 litres of Dual Purpose Kerosene and 67,000 litres of Premium Motor Spirit. Eight trucks, three pumping machines, three outboard engines and three generators were also recovered, while five pipelines vandals were also arrested.

"All recovered items were handed over to the relevant authority for further action," he said.

On the operations of the troops in the South East zone, Danmadami said that the military and other secu-

rity agencies had sustained the momentum in the fight against the illegal activities of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and other criminals within the zone.

① He said the troops had on August 29 encountered IPOB/ESN criminals at Idemiri in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra and eliminated two of them while others fled with gun shot wounds.

② He added that police operatives also raided IPOB/ESN camp at Izombe in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo, killing five of the criminals and recovered cache of arms and large quantity of hard drugs.

In the South West Zone, the spokesman said the troops of 81 Division, on August 26, foiled an attempt to smuggle 792 parcels of illicit drugs suspected to be cannabis sativa into the country.

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