

Buhari's government of  
engaging in witch-hunt of

administration their  
fundamental human rights.

being treated as if we are  
criminals or prisoners of

intimidation, harassment  
and arrest of its members

## Three bandits killed in gunfight with JTF

Godwin Isenyo,  
Kaduna

**A**T least three cattle rustlers were killed while nine other were arrested as the Joint Task Force put in place by the Kaduna State Governor, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, engaged bandits at the Birnin-Gwari Local Government Area of the state.

Also 2,000 cows were recovered from the bandits during the joint security operation in the area on Monday.

El-Rufai and the governors of neighbouring Kebbi, Zamfara, Niger and Katsina states had met in Kaduna and agreed on a joint security operation to fish out bandits hiding in the forests.

The joint security task force comprises of the Nigerian Army, Nigeria Air Force, the police, and men of the Kaduna command of the Department of State Services and the National Security and Civil Defence Corps. The task force is led by Brigadier-Gen. S. Malu.

Captain A Ujah, speaking on behalf of the taskforce while conducting El-Rufai and his entourage round the area of operation in Damari on Tuesday, said nine of the bandits were arrested while three were killed during a gun battle with the security operatives.

"The operation is ongoing and we believe victory will be ours based on the progress we made so far. The joint security operation is headed by our boss, Brig. Gen. S. Malu," he said.

Gambo Audu, one of the arrested cow rustlers, confessed to committing the crime and pleaded for leniency.

Meanwhile, El-Rufai, who spoke with journalists shortly after visiting the members of the JTF, commended the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security operatives for their gallantry during the joint operation.

He noted that the activities of bandits in the area had lingered for too long and that similar operations were ongoing in neighbouring states of Kebbi, Katsina, Niger and Zamfara.

The governor said, "So far, so good. We are very proud of the work done by the Nigerian armed

forces and other security agencies in trying to solve this lingering problem.

"The problem has lingered for long. We ask our people to pray for the security agencies carrying out this operation so that there will be minimal problems.

"The operation is a joint one currently going on in five states of Kebbi, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna and Niger that have forests where bandits are hiding to commit this crime. The army, Air Force, police, SSS, civil defence are all in this operation."

## Delay in naming House committees stalls Reps' duties

John Ameh, Abuja

**Happiness**

**LUMINOUS**

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