

# Troops kill 12 in Kaduna, free 10 in Ekiti

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Nigerian Army. File photo

**KAMARUDEEN OGUNDELE and OLALEYE ALUKO**

No fewer than 12 bandits have been killed in Kidandan, Maidaro and Sabon Fili villages in the Dogon Dawa area of Kaduna State during an exchange of fire between some gunmen and troops of the Nigerian Army.

One of our correspondents learnt that the troops attached to 1 Division Garrison, deployed on *Operation Idon Raini*, encountered the bandits, who were in a nearby market, purchasing foods and provisions.

According to the army, the troops got a tip-off from the local vigilance group and they mobilised to the market during which a gun battle ensued between them and the bandits.

It was gathered that the troops also recovered 32 motorcycles, five handsets and N9,135 from the hoodlums.

The Director, Army Public Relations, Brig.-Gen. Texas Chukwu, who confirmed the incident, said the military would count on more intelligence from the residents to be able to flush out the criminal elements from the state.

Meanwhile, a combined team of soldiers and policemen on Saturday, rescued 10 victims from a kidnappers' den in Efon-Alaaye, Ekiti State.

No fewer than three persons had died in the area since the kidnappers invaded the town about 10 days ago.

The rescued victims included, the manager of a petrol station in the state and his wife.

The soldiers and men of the *Operation Flush* from the Ekiti State Command on Saturday invaded the forest where the kidnappers were hiding after carrying out two attacks and abducting some persons last weekend.

A source said there was a fierce duel between the security agencies and the kidnappers before the criminals were arrested.

“They requested N20m ransom from the petrol station manager but later reduced it to N15m. They were constantly making contact with the family.

“As of this morning (Saturday), the family could only raise N1.2m and that was the situation before the soldiers and police stormed the forest and secured their freedom,” the source said.

The Police Public Relations Officer in Ekiti, Caleb Ikechukwu, confirmed the development.

A statement from the Assistant Director of Army Public Relations, Major Ojo Adenegan, said the victims were kidnapped on their way to Ado Ekiti from Efon-Alaaye in two commercial buses at different points.

Adenegan appealed to the public to supply useful information to security agencies.