amfara, Sokoto

Olaleye Aluko, Abuja

o fewer than eight bandits have been killed by troops of the Nigerian Army attached to Operation Sharan Daji during clearance operations in Dumburum forests in Zamfara and Sokoto states.

The bandits were reportedly gunned down during a gun duel with the troops while four AK-47 rifles, two magazines containing 48 rounds of ammunition and two motorcycles were recovered from them.

Our correspondent learnt that the troops were attached to Sectors 2 and 3 of the special operation.

Some of the bandits were said to be hiding in Dumburum forests, while others were terrorising residents and burning down houses at Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

The army said on Friday that based on credible intelligence, its troops ambushed the criminals in the Tungar Rakumi on Thursday and killed two of them, who were also clad in military camouflage.

Our correspondent gathered that in Dumburum, the troops killed the other six bandits, recovered two rifles and two magazines.

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The army said in a release on Friday on its Twitter that a suspect, Lawali Aliyu, was also arrested in Araba village in the Illela Local Government Area of Sokoto State, with 1,015 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition concealed in a

It added that the operation was jointly conducted with members of the Civilian Joint Task Force.

The suspect and exhibits were reportedly handed over to the Sokoto State Police Command for further investigation.

The army said, "In continuation of the offensive operations aimed at decimating bandits operating within Zamfara and Sokoto states, troops with Operation Sharan Daji and Operation 777 embarked on clearance operations in Dumburum forests. At the end of the operations, six bandits were neutralised.

"Also, troops of Sector 3, 8 Division, got intelligence that bandits were attacking residents and burning down houses at Tsafe LGA in Zamfara State. At the end of the operation, two bandits dressed in military camouflage were neutralised and two AK-47 rifles loaded with seven magazines were recovered."



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