

METRO PLUS

Military helicopters kill gang leader, bandits in Zamfara

Published January 5, 2019



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Two attack helicopters of the Nigerian Air Force deployed to fight bandits and stop killings in parts of Zamfara State have shot dead a gang leader and scores of the bandits gathered on Doumbourou Hill and believed to be planning another attack.

Our correspondent learnt that the air strike, which was part of Operation Diran Mikiya in the North-West, was carried out late on Thursday after an Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance aircraft spotted “the bandits in large numbers and armed with high calibre weapons.”

According to the Air Force on Friday, the attack helicopters were deployed by the Air Task Force of the military operation and they engaged the bandits and destroyed their makeshift houses.

The NAF Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, said on Friday the helicopters strafed the target area in successive waves of attack, with the first wave causing some damage to the structures and neutralising some of their fighters.

He said, “The Air Task Force of Operation Diran Mikiya has destroyed another bandits’ hideout and neutralised several of their fighters near Doumbourou Hill in Zamfara. The attack was executed, following human intelligence reports, which were later confirmed by Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions.

“It indicated that a large number of bandits, armed with high-calibre weapons, regularly assembled at a compound around the foot of the Hill before going out on their operations.