

Troops kill three suspected terrorists, arrest 14 in Plateau

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Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Tukur Buratai

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The Special Task Force in Plateau State has killed three suspected terrorists and arrested 14 others allegedly on the verge of launching an attack on Riyom Local Government Area of the state.

The military outfit, code-named *Operation Safe Haven*, also arrested two persons said to have threatened to kidnap the Secretary-General of Jama’tu Nasir Islam, Dr Khalid Aliyu.

Parading the 16 suspects in Jos on Tuesday, the Commander of *Operation Safe Haven*, Maj Gen Augustine Agundu, said Aliyu Tijani and Haruna Abdullahi were arrested after a report from the Defence Headquarters that the life of the JNI chief was in danger, following anonymous calls threatening to kill him.

According to Agundu, the DHQ supported the operation.

He said, “On April 20, 2019, the combined efforts eventually led to the arrest of Aliyu Tijani and Haruna Abdullahi at Paar Hotel along Tafawa Balewa Way in Jos.”

According to him, Tijani is a blood relation of the JN1 chief while Haruna Abdullahi has been an accomplice for years.

Tijani told reporters that he decided to kidnap his cousin to get money to pay his house rent and also settle other domestic issues. He said he had no intention to kill him.

The STF Commander said they recovered sophisticated weapons from the suspected terrorists.

He said the hoodlums were arrested following a tip-off from a member of the public that they were planning to attack people along Kwi-Heipang Road in Riyom.

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Agundu said the troops deployed in the area killed three of the gangsters after a gunfight, with 14 others arrested.

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