

NEWS

Soldiers kill bandits, rescue kidnapped victims in Sokoto, Zamfara

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Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai

The Defence Headquarters says the troops of the *Operation Hadarin Daji* have neutralised scores of bandits during aggressive clearance operations in Zamfara and Sokoto states.

The Coordinator, Defence Media Operations, Maj. Gen. John Enenche, said in a statement in Abuja on Sunday that the operation was in line with the mandate given to the troops to decisively stamp out banditry in the North-West zone of the country.

The *News Agency of Nigeria* quoted Enenche as saying the troops on Saturday encountered the bandits, who had rustled unconfirmed number of cows at Daki Takwas and Tashar Kuturu in the Anka and Talata Mafara local government areas of Zamfara State.

He said the troops overwhelmed the bandits with superior fire, leading to the killing of scores of the hoodlums, while others escaped with gunshot wounds.

Enenche added that a total of 302 rustled cows and 412 sheep were recovered from the bandits, in addition to one empty magazine and five mobile phones, adding that the rustled animals had been handed over to their owners.

He said the troops rescued three kidnapped victims in the Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto State and two others at Yayi village in the Sabon Birni Local Government Area of the state.

The coordinator said the victims, upon interrogation, stated that they were kidnapped on June 1, 2020.

He added that all the victims had been handed over to the state government.

Enenche stated, “Also on July 10, the troops arrested five members of the Yan Sakai group and a gun fabricator along the Maga-Kyabu-Tadurga village road.

“The items recovered included one motorcycle, 10 Dane guns, one catapult, one knife, one saw, 16 plugs, one axe and three mobile phones.

“The military high command has commended the troops for their dedication and unwavering commitment and urged them to remain committed and sustain the onslaught against the enemies of our country.”