

Three bandits killed, many rescued in Zamfara, Katsina – Military

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Troops of the Operation Sahel Sanity have killed three bandits and rescued nine kidnapped victims in various operations in Katsina State between Saturday and Wednesday.

The troops similarly arrested six suspected bandits and three of their collaborators as well as recovered cache of arms and unspecified numbers of cows during the period.

The acting Director, Defence Media Operations, Brigadier General Bernard Onyeuko, disclosed this in a statement made available to journalists in Katsina on Thursday.

According to him, on Sunday, the troops conducted aggressive clearance operation of some identified bandits' enclaves in the Dumburum Forest, during which three bandits were killed, while they recovered one AK-47 rifle, two empty AK-47 rifle magazines and 127 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition.

He added that on the same day, troops deployed in the Dandume Local Government Area of the state rescued four kidnap victims from suspected bandits at Tudun Ali village just as troops deployed in Bagega village, "while on fighting patrol," rescued another three kidnap victims from suspected bandits at Gobirawa village.

Onyeuko added, "Also, troops conducting clearance patrol along the Faskari-Sheme Road came in contact with suspected bandits. In a bid to escape, the bandits opened fire on sighting the approaching troops.

"Nevertheless, the resilient troops closed in on them with superior fire power, forcing the bandits to retreat in disarray with possible gunshot wounds and in the process, abandoned their victims, including two kidnapped teenage boys."

He also revealed that on Wednesday, troops deployed in Faskari conducted fighting patrol to Yar Malamai village following a tip-off and arrested four suspected bandits, who are currently undergoing interrogation.

The army spokesman disclosed that on Saturday, August 15, 2020, troops deployed in Jengebe arrested three suspected bandit collaborators at the Jengebe Market, while attempting to sell three rustled cows to unsuspecting customers.

In a related development, troops of the Operation Sahel Sanity deployed in the Forward Operating Base, Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State, have smashed an illegal arms smuggling syndicate supplying weapons to bandits in the North-West.

The operatives also arrested three Nigeriens said to be involved in arms trafficking and recovered firearms during an undercover operation.

Disclosing this on Thursday in Abuja during his weekly briefing on ongoing military operations across the country, the Coordinator, Defence Media Operations, Maj. Gen. John Enenche, explained that the gang was intercepted at Dantudu in the Mailailai District of Sabon Birni LGA with six AK-47 rifles, three AK-47 rifle magazines and 2,415 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition concealed in various parts of their vehicle.