

Bandits who fled to Niger military camp killed, monarch regains freedom

Romoke Ahmad 13 September 2021

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Scores of bandits trying to escape the ongoing military operation in Zamfara and Katsina states met their waterloo during an encounter with troops at Maganda village near Allawa in the Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State.

The bandits were said to be escaping in their hundreds through the notorious Allawa forest when they ran into the military camp in Allawa and engaged the soldiers in a serious gun battle for several hours.

A soldier was reported to be missing at the end of the gun battle, while scores of bandits were neutralised and several others escaped into the forest with bullet injuries.

The PUNCH gathered that the bandits, who escaped with serious bullet wounds, were still being trailed by soldiers as the entire forest was being combed in search of the escapees.

It was gathered that six machine guns, some AK-47 rifles and bags of ammunition were recovered from the bandits.

A resident of the Allawa community, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said most of the bandits killed appeared like foreigners.

“In fact, from the dead bodies that we saw, they were not Nigerians, but foreigners; all of them had long hair like women. They didn’t have any resemblance to Nigerians and they didn’t know the terrain, that was why they ran into the soldiers, because they did not know that there was a soldiers’ camp there,” the source said.

The source said though one soldier was killed by the bandits, the troops recorded a huge success by killing several of the hoodlums, adding, “As I speak with you, the bodies of the bandits killed still litter the bush. This is one of the major breakthroughs recorded by the military in the war against bandits in the state in recent times.”

Bandits had in April invaded the military base in Allawa and killed five soldiers and a riot policeman.

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The entire military camp was razed down by the bandits, who invaded it around 3am, when the soldiers had just returned to their base from area patrol.

After the invasion of the military base, the bandits moved into the community and killed seven persons and abducted some villagers.

Meanwhile, the District Head of Wawa in the Borgu Local Government Area of the state, Dr Mahmud Aliyu, who was abducted by bandits barely a week ago, has regained his freedom.

Sources close to his palace disclosed that the district head was set free on Friday without the payment of ransom.

The Police Public Relation Officer in the state, DSP Wasiu Abiodun, confirmed the release of the monarch.