

# Troops attacked insurgents, killed 50 – DHQ

Solomon Odeniyi, Abuja

**T**HE Nigerian Army said troops of Operation Hadin Kai have killed no fewer than 50 Islamic State West Africa Province terrorists in Askira Uba Local Government Area of Borno State.

The PUNCH reports that the suspected terrorists killed Brig.-Gen. Dzarma Zirkusu, and three other soldiers during an attack in the same LGA on Saturday.

The Director of Army Public Relations, Brigadier General, Onyema Nwachukwu, in a statement on Monday, said the

troops engaged the terrorists and neutralised over 50 of them, including top commanders of the terrorist group.

The statement was titled, 'Update on Operation Hadin Kai: Troops neutralise scores of ISWAP terrorists, destroy equipment in Askira Uba counter

offensive'.

It read, "Troops of Joint Task Force, North-East Operation Hadin Kai, have neutralised over 50 Islamic State West Africa Province terrorists and destroyed several of their combat equipment in a fierce counter offensive in Askira Uba Local

Government Area of Borno State.

"In the counter offensive, troops eliminated top commanders of ISWAP as well as foot soldiers. The gallant troops also unleashed massive destruction on the terrorists' Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle and several Gun Trucks.

"While the battle raged, the gallant troops of 25 Task Force Brigade, supported by Air Component of OPHK, engaged the terrorists in a hot pursuit.

"Troops made contact with the fleeing terrorists at Leho village within Askira Uba LGA and in the encounter that ensued, troops eliminated scores of terrorists and destroyed their combat equipment.

"The equipment destroyed by troops includes an MRAP vehicle and 11 Gun Trucks. The troops also recovered large cache of arms and ammunition viz., Five Gun Trucks, two Anti-Aircraft Guns, five AK 47 rifles, one HK Machine Gun and one HK Machine Gun links."

Onyema added that the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya, had led a team of top brass of the Nigerian Army to pay a condolence visit to the family of the late Commander, 28 Task Force Brigade, Brig.-Gen Dzarma Zirkusu on Sunday to commiserate with the families.

He, however, reaffirmed the troops' renewed operational readiness to aggressively confront the terrorists.



•L-R: Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary, Mr Onofiok Luke; Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Muhammad Bello; Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo; Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Ibrahim Tanko; and Justice of Supreme Court, Justice Mary Odili, during the national judges' conference in Abuja... on Monday. Photo: Olatunji Obasa

## Bandits want education, facilities for children to drop arms – Gumi

Godwin Isenyo, Kaduna

**I**SLAMIC cleric, Sheikh Ahmad Gumi, has said bandits are ready to drop their arm only if government can provide education and other basic amenities for Fulani herdsmen across the north and by extension, Nigeria.

Gumi disclosed this while on inspection tour of Sheikh Uthman Bin Fodio Centre, a school built by Sheikh Gumi Mosque Foundation Limited, at Kagarko Grazing Reserve near Kohoto village. It was funded by the cleric (Gumi).

According to him, if the centre, which is designed to educate herdsmen, is replicated everywhere in the country, Nigerians will live in peace.

Gumi noted that instead of spending billions on military

hardware to fight the bandits, Nigeria should spend such money on schools and teachers.

He also disclosed that he had spoken with the bandits and they were willing to drop their arms and embrace peace, if their children could be provided with education and other social amenities.

Gumi said, "What motivated me to start this project was to solve the insecurity problem we have from the root because every crime has its perpetrators and every perpetrators are drawn from a pool. So, we want to go there and dry the pool and we found out that education is the best cure.

"If they are educated, they will not be doing what they are doing. So, we say we must take education to the grassroots and we embarked on the project to also be

an example for others.

"What we have here is centre containing six classrooms that can be used for primary, secondary schools and at various times you can teach all categories at all times.

"The place will be engaged for 24 hours because the herdsmen usually take their cattle out by 10am and bring them back by dawn or sunset. So, they have two hours before they take their cattle away and we have two to three hours because we like to put some solar light so that they can read 8, 9, 10pm in the night."

The Islamic scholar also said

**Slain Vanguard reporter's family picks holes in police claims**

Deke Baiyewu, Abuja

**T**HE family members of slain Vanguard Newspaper reporter, Tordue Salem, have said they had yet to see the body

he was quoted out of context that Nigeria won't exist if bandits were declared terrorists.

"I didn't say there will be no Nigeria; I said if banditry has now turned into terrorism, fanatical religious terrorism which is there because Islam recognises religious terrorism; so if we allow the herdsmen to turn into religious fanatic and extremist it will not be good for us as a nation.

"About 99 per cent of the herdsmen are not into banditry but if you turn it into religious struggle they will just go there committing crime. So, it is not good to label

them as terrorists because it will profile all herdsmen as terrorist because you are attaching it to herdsmen."

"There is a lot that can be done to improve insecurity in Nigeria such as having this kind of centre instead of spending billions on hardware, let's spend it on schools and teachers.

"Even the bandits I have spoken with them as am speaking with you to drop down their weapons to study. As long their women and children will learn, they are ready to drop their weapons, so why won't we embrace peace."

the house, packed everything - electronics and stuff like that - and said 'where is your uncle?'

"This young man went and knocked and he opened the door and they attacked him with

His body was reportedly found somewhere in the Abuja metropolis.

Mba, a Commissioner of

ase COVID-19 booster dose.