

Reps lament, say terrorists kill 30 in Taraba

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FILE: Members of the House of Representatives at plenary

The House of Representatives has called for the intervention of the Nigerian Armed Forces as terrorists overrun two local government areas of Taraba State, killing “over 30” within one week.

At the plenary on Wednesday, the House urged the military to deploy more troops to the LGAs to dislodge the terrorists and restore normalcy.

The lawmakers also urged the intelligence and operational security agencies to identify the routes and camps of the terrorists and their local collaborators to bring them to book.

The parliament also urged the National Emergency Management Agency and other spirited organisations to intervene by providing relief materials to the “more than 20,000 persons who are now refugees in their communities.”

The House further mandated its Committees on Defence, National Security and Intelligence and Human Rights to interface with the Armed Forces and ensure compliance with the resolutions.

The joint committee is to report back to the House within 14 days for further legislative action.

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A member of the House, Rimamnde Kwewum, who is representing Takum/Donga/Ussa/Yangtu SDA Federal Constituency in Taraba State, had moved a motion of urgent public importance titled, “Urgent Need to Prevent Terrorists Overrunning Ussa Local Government Area of Taraba State.”

According to Kwewum, the terrorists who murdered six soldiers of the 93rd Battalion of the Nigerian Army in Takum LGA of Taraba State have continued the “unabated destruction of settlements in Takum and Ussa Local Government Areas of Taraba State.”

The lawmaker said in the last week – July 5 to 12, 2022 – “well over 30 people have been killed.”

He stated, “In the latest attacks, the terrorists waylaid innocent and defenceless people, and they freely moved from Takum to Ussa, shooting at motorists and pedestrians. The killings and destruction have become daily occurrences—and in several of the communities, the terrorists attack crops in the fields, destroy houses, including worship centres, and sometimes set them ablaze.”

Kwewum lamented that the attacks kept occurring “without any strong, coordinated and consistent intervention from the security agencies,” especially since the soldiers were killed by the bandits and the Commanding Officer of the 93rd Battalion was abducted.

The lawmaker stressed the urgent need to deploy more security agents to the LGAs to dislodge the terrorists and bring normalcy to the areas, “as the citizens are becoming despondent and losing confidence in the government.”