

## news

## ① Bandits kill seven soldiers in Zamfara ambush

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**B**ANDITS have killed seven soldiers in the Kangan Garacci village of the Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State. A resident of the area, Garba Shehu, said the bandits, who were in large numbers, ambushed the troops under Hadarin Daji in Kangan Garacci village, killing seven soldiers.

The bandits, according to Shehu, also invaded the village and killed at least 10 residents.

According to Shehu, the troops were in the area to restore peace on receiving a distress call, not knowing that, the bandits were hiding in a bush.

He said, "The bandits, who were on motorcycles came to Kangan Garacci village last Monday, and we called the troops and informed them of the sad development.

"Immediately the troops got the information of the planned attack, they rushed to the area to foil the attack, not knowing that the bandits had laid an ambush.

"Immediately the troops arrived at the place where the bandits were hiding, they (bandits) opened fire, killing seven soldiers instantly.

"The bandits later attacked the village where they also killed no fewer than 10 people and carted away food items and domestic animals."

Shehu lamented that the attack on the village was one too many.

"Most of the people of the village have since fled to other places for safety," he said.

When contacted a military officer in Zamfara told our correspondent that "Only Defence Headquarters in Abuja can speak on the issue."

Also, the Director, Defence Media Operations, Maj. Gen. Edward Buba, confirmed the bandits' attack on troops but said they were successfully repelled.

He said there were casualties but didn't give details.

① Buba said, "On July 24, 2023, bandits attacked troops of Sect 1 FOB Kango while on foot patrol. The troops repelled the attack inflicting casualties on the bandits. The search and rescue operation is still in progress. The FOB has been beefed up following the threats of reprisal by the bandits due to the casualties they sustained. Troops are poised for a further offensive against the bandits."

② Meanwhile, the air component of military Operation Hadarin Daji has raided the hideout of a terrorist kingpin known as Alhaji Nashama in the Birnin Magaji Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

It was gathered that Nashama's enclave was destroyed and some of his foot soldiers were killed during the raid.

A military report sighted by our correspondent on Wednesday said the raid was carried out following intelligence reports that terrorists were planning to launch an attack and rustle cattle.

The report said troops eliminated several terrorists loyal to the notorious terrorists' kingpin in their enclave in the Birnin Magaji LGA.

"The strikes were carried out on the heels of credible and actionable intelligence reports that the terrorists were massing up at Tsamre in Birnin Magaji LGA to attack and rustle cattle.

It added that similar air strikes were conducted on terrorists' enclaves at Hanawanka in Shiroro LGA and Palele, a village on the borders of Shiroro and Munya LGAs of Niger State.

The report said the raid in Niger followed intelligence reports that terrorists were migrating from Katsina and Zamfara State.

"This became necessary after intelligence had revealed a migration of terrorists from Katsina and Zamfara State who had come under intense heat from military onslaughts."

When contacted, the Nigerian Air Force spokesperson, Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet, confirmed the operations.

He, however, declined further comments regarding the operations.

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