

Troops raid IPOB arms factory, kill eight terrorists in Sambisa

Solomon Odeniyi, Abuja

THE Nigerian Army, on Monday, said its troops in collaboration with hybrid forces killed eight terrorists during an operation conducted in Sambisa forest in Borno State.

It was as it said it uncovered and destroyed firearms production factories belonging to the separatist Indigenous People of Biafra between Ekoli Edda and Amagwu Ohafia communities in Abia and Ebonyi states, respectively.

The Director of Army Public Relations, Maj. Gen. Onyema Nwachukwu, stated this in a press release on Monday.

Nwachukwu said Boko Haram terrorists engaged troops in a gun duel in Sambisa forest, but they were subdued, with six of them killed while several others escaped with gunshot wounds.

He said, "The Nigerian Army troops in conjunction with hybrid force elements, have successfully neutralised eight Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists at Ukuba, a notorious terrorists' enclave in Sambisa forest.

"The operation, which took place on Sunday, March 10, 2024, witnessed a fierce gun battle that inflicted severe losses on the terrorist group, compelling them to retreat and abandon their camp in disarray.

"A thorough search of the captured camp by the gallant troops led to the recovery of

five locally-fabricated double-barrel guns; two motorbikes and assorted foodstuffs, belonging to the terrorists."

The army spokesman said four terrorists were killed in similar operations conducted in Katsina and Zamfara states.

He said, "In a separate clearance operation on the same day in the Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State, troops cleared Dan Birgima, Ungwan Noma, Katoge, and Pauwa villages.

"During the operation, troops gunned down two insurgents in combat and recovered three AK-47 rifles, eight magazines, 57 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, three Baofeng radio sets, 12 Baofeng radio chargers and one Bandolier.

"The troops also rescued

a civilian, who had been in captivity of the insurgents for days. Two motorbikes and makeshift structures in the insurgents' camp were also destroyed by the troops.

"In the same vein, troops have cleared Dandalla, Madada, Dogon Karfe, Hayi, Gobirawan and Kango Kuyambana villages in the Gusau and Maru Local Government Areas of Zamfara State. In the encounter with the insurgents, troops neutralised two of them and recovered an AK-47 rifle, three fabricated guns, two rounds of anti-aircraft raft ammunition, one motorbike, and two solar panels."

Onyema stated that another operation was conducted by troops in Abia and Ebonyi states, leading to the destruction of the Indigenous People of Biafra's

fighters' hideouts.

According to him, arms were produced in the destroyed camps.

He said, "In southeastern Nigeria, troops on Sunday 10, March 2024 successfully raided and destroyed IPOB/ESN fighters' firearms production factory located between Ekoli Edda and Amagwu Ohafia communities in Abia and Ebonyi States respectively.

"The dissidents' camp, which was used for fabricating firearms and production of ammunition was fortified with fire trenches/sandbag parapets and powered with a 15 KVA generator.

"The vigilant troops recovered two fabricated AK-47 rifles, one rocket-propelled grenade bomb, two IPOB/ESN flags, as well as welding and filing machines from the factory."

Pray for Nigeria to overcome challenges, govs tell Muslims

Chima Azubuike, Tunde Oyekola, Tukur Muntari and Nathaniel Shaibu

AS the Muslim month-long Ramadan fast enters day two today, state governors and other leaders in the country have called for prayers for the nation.

The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar, who is the Islamic spiritual leader in Nigeria, had on Sunday declared (Monday) March 11, 2024, as the first day of

Ramadan.

The Sultan said the declaration was based on the sighting of the moon in almost every part of the country earlier on Sunday, "which is the 29th day of the Month of Shaban and thereby signifies tomorrow, 11th of March, as the first day of Ramadan 1445."

In a statement on Monday by its chairman, Muhammadu Yahaya, the Northern States Governors' Forum, urged the Muslim Ummah and the

entire citizenry to use this holy month to offer prayers for peace, development, and prosperity of the country.

Yahaya, who is the Governor of Gombe State, said, "Ramadan, as one of the five pillars of Islam, provides a golden opportunity for spiritual rejuvenation and devotion through supplication and worship."

He urged clerics to emphasise peaceful co-existence, unity and piety, "during their Tafsir sessions and other Ta'alimat throughout the month-long

Gov raises task force to enforce sharia ban