

Troops kill bandits buying food in Sokoto market

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| By Animashaun Salman

Troops of the Nigerian Army have killed two suspected members of Lakurawa terror group in Sokoto State.

The incident happened on Saturday in the Mano community, Tangaza Local Government Area, where the bandits had gone to buy food items before soldiers ambushed them.

The Army Operations Officer for Tangaza, Gudu, Binji, and Silame LGAs, Major Chukuma, confirmed the operation.

“Our men intercepted the criminals at the market. After a brief exchange of fire, two of them were neutralised, and we recovered three rifles and five motorcycles. The others escaped into the forest, and our troops are still pursuing them,” he said.

An eyewitness told Sunday PUNCH that the swift operation brought relief to locals.

“We saw them trying to buy food when the soldiers arrived. After gunshots, two of the bandits were lying dead. This gives us some hope because we have suffered too much in their hands,” he said.

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Border communities in Tangaza, Gudu, and Argungu in Kebbi State have for years come under attack from the Lakurawa, who exploit the porous border with Niger Republic.

A community elder, Alhaji Umar Bello, described the incident as encouraging.

“These bandits come and go as they like, killing our people and stealing our cattle. This action by the army shows that government is listening.

We pray they will continue until all of them are flushed out,” he said.

Residents, however, urged the military to sustain the pressure to ensure lasting peace.