

Military kills scores of fleeing bandits in Niger, one soldier missing

...As Abducted district head regains freedom

From John Adams, Minna

SCORES of armed bandits fleeing the ongoing military operation in Zamfara and Katsina states on Friday afternoon met their Waterloo in the hands of soldiers at Maganda village near Allawa in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State.

The bandits who were escaping through the notorious Allawa forest in their hundreds, ran into the military camp stationed at Alawa and engaged the soldiers in a serious gun battle for several hours.

At the end of the gun battle, one soldier was said to be missing while scores of the bandits were neutralized and several others escaped into the forest with bullet injuries.

Soldiers are still on the trail of those who escaped with bullet wounds as the entire forest is being combed in search of them. About six machine guns and a number of AK 47 rifles and bags of ammunitions were recovered from the bandits.

According to a source close to Allawa community, who spoke to Sunday Sun on the condition of anonymity, said most of the bandits killed all look like foreigners as they have no resemblance of Nigerians.

"In fact from the dead bodies that we saw, they are not Nigerians. They are foreigners who have long hair like women. They don't have resemblance of Nigerians and they don't know the terrain that was why they ran into the soldiers because they did not know that there was a military camp in the place," our source said.

He disclosed that though the bandits killed one soldier, the soldiers recorded a huge success by killing several of them, stressing, "As I speak with you the bodies

of the bandits killed are still littered in the bush."

This is one of the major break throughs recorded by the military in the war against armed bandits in the state in recent times.

However, it could be recalled that the bandits had in April this year, invaded the Military Base in Alawa, and killed five soldiers and a mobile policeman.

The armed bandits who invaded the base about 3.00am razed the entire military camp when soldiers had just returned to their base from area patrol.

After the invasion of the military base,

the bandits moved to the community where they killed seven people and abducted a number of villagers.

Meanwhile, the District Head of Wawa in Borgu Local Government Area, Dr. Mahmud Aliyu, who was abducted about one week ago by armed bandits, has regained freedom.

The District Head was set free by the bandits on Friday evening without payment of any ransom money, according to source close to his palace.

The Police Public Relation Officer of the Niger State Command, ASP Wasiu Abiodun, confirmed the release of the monarch.

COEASU chairman accuses Provost of sack

From Okey Sampson, Umuahia

FOUR staff of Abia State College of Education (Technical), Arochuku (ASCETA), have reportedly died in the past two weeks. The last of such deaths was recorded Wednesday night.

The chairman of ASCETA College of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU), Mr. Kelvin Egesi, who confirmed the deaths said they were as a result of hunger and starvation as workers of the college are owed 32 months arrears of salary.

This is even as Egesi alleged that the Provost of the College, Dr. Philip Nto, has threatened to sack him for demanding the payment of his colleagues' salary arrears.

The COEASU chairman said the four staff have died in the past two weeks, include Mr Stephen Amaraifu, Dr. Chiama Uchen-na, Dr. Uchechi S. Chijioke and Mr. Johnbul Okpudo.

His words: "The college staff are owed

salary arrears for 32 months and they are dying one after the other due to hunger and starvation. No money to feed, no money to pay hospital and other bills. The workers are planning to come to Umuahia to sit down at the Government House, Umuahia until they starve to death. They said they would come with coffins.

"What again do we do? The governor made a firm promise in July that government will pay five months arrears in August and subsequently pay the rest, but nothing has happened till now. God have mercy," Egesi lamented.

Meanwhile, the ASCETA COEASU chairman alleged that the Provost, Dr. Nto instructed the Registrar of the college, Iyke Odoemelun, to begin the process of sacking him.

Egesi in a statement said his offence was

• Continued on
www.sunnewsonline.com