

3 Army kills 30 terrorists who attacked Guards Brigade

• DHQ assures FCT residents of safety

From **Molly Kilete**,
Abuja

THE Defence Headquarters (DHQ) said 30 of the terrorists who attacked troops of the Guards Brigade in the Bwari area of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), last Sunday, have been killed.

Director, Defence Media Operations, Maj.-Gen. Bernard Onyeuko, who made the disclosure at the Bi weekly news conference on military operations, yesterday, in Abuja, also assured Nigerians, especially residents of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), of their safety, saying the security situation in the nation's capital was under control.

Onyeuko said the operation was conducted by troops of 7 Guards Battalion and 167 Special Force Battalion, in conjunction with the air component of "Operation Whirl Punch" between Sunday and Tuesday.

He said the troops successfully cleared Kawu and Ido villages neutralising the terrorists and destroyed their enclave and hideout. He said the ground troops also recovered six motorcycles, two AK47 rifles and one fully loaded LMG magazine, amongst others.

He assured that the armed forces working in synergy with the various security agencies is committed to protecting the lives and property of all Nigerians. He urged citizens to go about their legitimate businesses without fear of attack.

"The hierarchy of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and other security agencies

wishes to reassure Nigerians of its commitment. With the recent operations carried out from July 13, we wish to assure residents of FCT Abuja, in particular, that we are undaunted and unrelenting in our efforts to ensure the safety of lives and properties. People should go about their normal businesses as

their safety is guaranteed.

"The support and cooperation of all Nigerians is, hereby, solicited as security is everybody's business. Citizens are encouraged to report any unusual persons in your community to security agencies. If you see something, say something."

Gen Onyeuko said over 30 terrorists were killed during the Bwari attack by the sol-

diers who recovered several weapons, just as military offensive operations in the entire FCT is yielding positive result.

Giving an insight into the Bwari attack, he said: "Troops of 7 Guards Battalion and 167 Special Force Battalion, in conjunction with the air component of Operation Whirl Punch, conducted a clearance patrol

around the Bwari general area between July 24 - 26, 2022.

"Troops successfully cleared Kawu and Ido villages. Consequently, about 30 terrorists were neutralised and their enclave and hideout destroyed. Ground troops also recovered six motorcycles, two AK47 rifles and one fully loaded LMG magazine, amongst others."

Hanifa's murder: Killer teacher, one other to die by hanging

A Kano High Court, yesterday, sentenced the proprietor of Noble Kids College, Abdulmalik Tanko, to death by hanging for the murder of a six-year-old pupil, Hanifa Abubakar.

Also to die by hanging is Tanko's accomplice, Hashimu Isyaku, 37.

Tanko, 38, Isyaku and Fatima Musa, 26, who all reside in Tudun Murtala Quarters, Kano, were arraigned on February 14, on five-count charge of criminal conspiracy, attempt to kidnap, abetment, kidnapping and concealing of kidnapped person.

Delivering judgment, yesterday, Justice Usman Na'abba held that the Prosecution proved their case with ingredients beyond reasonable doubt.

"Pw1, Pw2, exhibit 11, 12, 13, and oral evidence of the Defendants tendered by the Prosecution proved their case. The court discharges and acquits the third defendant, Musa, for abetment. She is sentenced to two years imprisonment for being a mother for conspiracy and attempted kidnap," the judge held.

Earlier, the Defence Counsel, Mrs Hasiya Muhammad-

Imam, pleaded for leniency and urged the court to temper justice with mercy on behalf of the defendants.

"My Lord, Tanko is a father of three, Isyaku is the bread-winner of his family, while Musa is a mother," she pleaded.

The Prosecution Counsel and the Attorney-General of Kano State, Musa Abdullahi-Lawan, described the case as a crime against humanity.

"I urge my Lord to impose the maximum sentence against the first defendant. The first defendant decided to kidnap Hanifa and decided to kill her because she was old enough to recognise him. The mother of late Hanifa should have justice," Abdullahi-Lawan said.

The prosecution counsel presented eight witnesses and tendered 14 exhibits to

prove their case against the defendants and recovered N29,000. The defence witnesses were the three convicts.

Tanko was alleged to have kidnapped Hanifa on December 1, 2021, held her hostage in his house at Tudun Murtala for days, before killing and burying her in a shallow grave, on December 10, 2021.

Gunmen attack Ondo construction site, injure workers

From **Bamigbola Gbolagunfe**, Akure

UNKNOWN gunmen, on Wednesday, invaded Owo, the headquarters of Owo Local Government Area of Ondo State, injuring some workers of a construction company in the town.

Owo, the home town of Governor Rotimi Akeredolu, has been under severe attack by gunmen since May, with the attack on St Francis Catholic Church, located in the town where over 40 people were killed and scores injured.

The latest attack on the town was confirmed in a tweet by the state police

command.

The police authorities confirmed that some workers of Craneburg Construction Company in Owo were injured during an attack by unknown gunmen at the construction site.

The reports noted that the workers, whose names were yet to be known, were attacked at about 9:45pm, on Wednesday, during a dynamite explosion unleashed by the hoodlums.

It was gathered that the gunmen shot sporadically into the air and damaged the windscreen of the trailers at the construction site and, thereafter, bolted. It was also gathered that the injured

people had been taken to the nearest hospital and were responding to treatment.

The Commander of the Ondo State Security Network Agency, otherwise known as Operation Amotekun, Mr Adetunji Adeleye, said: "I am just leaving the scene now where I went to assess the situation. I realised that the two security men on ground were injured as the attackers shot into the air."

"They got the windscreen of the caterpillar of the construction company damaged, and the injured men have been receiving treatment at a nearby hospital," he added.