

Troops kill 103 terrorists, arrest 40 others, destroy 57 illegal refineries

From **Molly Kilete**, Abuja

THE Defence Media Operations (DMO) said soldiers fighting the counter insurgency war in the North East have killed 103 members of the Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa State Province (ISWAP) terrorists in the last three weeks.

The soldiers also arrested 40 terrorists, including four commanders and rescued 30 kidnapped victims.

Director, Defence Media Operations, Major General Musa Danmadami, who made the disclosure, also said 280 repentant terrorists and their families, comprising 29 males, 73 females and 148 children, surrendered to the military at various theatres of operation in the North East.

Gen. Danmadami, at a media briefing on update on military operations conducted between December 1-22, said the operations have continued to record tremendous successes and denied criminals from carrying out their nefarious activities.

He said within the period under review, soldiers on internal security operations in the South South part of the country destroyed 57 illegal refining sites, 953 cooking ovens, 68 wooden boats, 172 storage tanks and 149 dugout pits. He said the soldiers from Operation Delta State, recovered 445,000 litres of crude oil, 1,043,000 litres of Automotive Gas Oil, 22,000 litres of Premium Motor Spirit, 2,000 litres of Dual Purpose Kerosine, one AK47 rifle, eight tankers, 63 vehicles, two speed boats, one thug boat, 14 motorcycles, one tricycle, three bicycles, 11 pumping machines and three outboard engines, and arrested 21 oil thieves and pipeline vandals. He said efforts of the soldiers

denied the vandals of stealing crude oil worth over N700 million.

Danmadami, said: "The land and air components of Operation Hadin Kai have continued to dominate their general area

of operation as operational activities were conducted in villages, towns and mountain areas within Damboa, Bama, Gwoza and Konduga, Local Government Areas of Borno State, as well as Gulani and

Geidam Local Government Areas of Yobe States, respectively. Notably, on December 1, 2022, troops had a meeting engagement with Boko Haram/Islamic State of West Africa State Province terrorists

at Waji Roko in Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State. Troops with the support of air component engaged the terrorists and neutralised scores of the terrorists, while others fled.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)

DHQ denies soldiers' attack on Enugu village, vows to fish out perpetrators

From **Molly Kilete**, Abuja

THE Defence Headquarters (DHQ) has denied the alleged attack by soldiers on Ehamufu Isi-Uzo village in Enugu State.

Gunmen in military uniform allegedly attacked the village on Monday, killing several villagers, maimed several others and burnt their houses.

But the DHQ, in a swift reaction, said soldiers were not trained to carry out such barbaric acts and vowed to fish out those behind the brutal act and bring them to justice.

Director, Defence Information, Major General Jimmy Akpor, made the disclosure at a news briefing on the update of military operations conducted in the country in the last three weeks.

Gen. Akpor, while noting that it was no longer news that criminals had resorted to wearing military and other security agencies' uniforms to carry out their heinous activities, said the military and the security agencies have recovered several of such uniforms and weapons from the criminals.

The DDI, who was responding to journalists' questions on the attack, said the military, which is solely responsible for protecting Nigeria's territorial integrity and her citizens from external attack, cannot be the same military to kill her citizens who they are meant to protect.

He said for some time now,

the military and the security agencies had made huge recoveries of uniforms and weapons from criminal gangs who were not authorised to have them.

Speaking on the attack, Gen Akpor, said: "From the brief you got, you know so well what the armed forces and other security agencies are doing to keep the environment safe. And the same people, who are doing so much to keep the environment safe, cannot turn around and attack the people that they are supposed to protect. So that said, the story cannot be true that military men carried out

an attack on Ehamufu Isi-Uzo village.

"The issue of our accoutrements and our uniforms being in the hands of criminals is what we deal with everyday, and we will not shy away from our responsibility to do our uttermost to remove articles of violence from the hands of those who are not authorised to carry them, the criminals.

"And you saw from the brief how many weapons have been seized or that were captured from bandits, terrorists across the country, and the more we seize and capture weapons

from criminals, the more we keep the environment safe.

"So, for those who may have attacked Ehamufu Isi-Uzo village, definitely the security men in the South East are not sleeping, they will be fished out and dealt with."

To ensure a crisis-free Christmas and New year celebrations, the defence spokesman said the military, in conjunction with the various security agencies, are working round the clock, "so that we can have a very peaceful holiday season."

Probes alleged massacre of Zamfara civilians in air strike

From **Molly Kilete**, Abuja

THE Defence Headquarters said it is investigating the alleged killing of innocent civilians during an air strike last Sunday, targeted at terrorists who converged on Mutumji Community in Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

The Director, Defence Media Operations (DMO), Major General Musa Danmadami, who made the disclosure, however, maintained that the air strike was targeted solely at bandits who invaded the area in their hundreds on motor-cycles.

Gen. Danmadami, while responding to journalists' questions at a media briefing on update on military operations conducted in the last three

weeks, said the allegations, notwithstanding, the military high command has set up a board to investigate the alleged killings of innocent civilians during the air strike carried out by the air component of the operations.

The director, while lamenting the death of some soldiers from the ground forces during the operations, noted that the number of soldiers killed in the operations was exaggerated in the media.

While noting that the number of civilians alleged to have been killed during the operation has not been officially communicated to the military by the Zamfara State government, Danmadami, said: "The operation was conducted successfully and a lot of terrorists were killed in the air strike. It was a combined operation between the ground forces and the air component. Unfortu-

nately, during the ground forces operations, we lost some soldiers, but the number of civilian casualties and collateral damage cannot be confirmed.

The Zamfara State government has not come out to give us any figure as far as that incident is concerned. Investigation has been ordered into the operation, to ascertain if actually there was collateral damage and equally the number of people that were involved.

"So, for now, we cannot give you any specific number as to the level of collateral damage that happened during that incident, so as not to jeopardise investigations that are ongoing. The air bombardment was precision bombardment and a lot of terrorists were equally neutralised during the operations."

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)