

# Troops kill 10 bandits in Kaduna clearance operation

Ndubuisi Ugah  
WITH AGENCY REPORTS

**1** The renewed onslaught by the Federal Government over the activities of insurgents, bandits yielded positive results yesterday when troops of 1 Division, Nigerian Army, deployed in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State on Operation CLEAN SWEEP, confirmed the death of 10 bandits during a clearance operation at Kuduru forest.

**2** The development emerged on a day authorities said two Alpha Jets of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) bombed a Boko Haram terrorists' hideout in Alafa area in Sambisa Forest of Borno State, killing scores of the fighters.

**3** In the same vein, the Multi National Joint Task Force (MNJTF), has described the report of attack by the Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists on its troops and killing of 40 soldiers as false.

However, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Operation CLEAN SWEEP is the climax of exer-

- NAF Alpha Jets destroy insurgent's hideouts at Alafa in Borno
- Military denies ISWAP attack, killing of 40 soldiers

cise HARBIN KUNAMA III, is aimed at flushing out the remnants of armed bandits, kidnappers and other criminal elements from the North Western Zone of Nigeria.

The General Officer Commanding 1 Division, Nigerian Army, Maj-Gen. Faruk Yahaya, told newsmen in Kaduna on Friday that the troops inflicted heavy casualties on the bandits, killing 10 of them while

others escaped with gunshot wounds.

Yahaya said the bandits' camp was also destroyed, but that five soldiers sustained injuries during the operation.

He the injured soldiers were evacuated to 44 Reference Hospital, Kaduna, to save their lives but sadly two of them paid the supreme price.

During a visit to the hospital, the GOC commiser-

ated with the wounded soldiers and also commended the gallantry performance of the dead soldiers.

Yahaya said their bravery and dedication to duty was exemplary that every Nigerian soldier and indeed Nigerians should be proud of.

He promised that the soldiers would be given befitting burials after informing their families of tragic loss.

Speaking on the bomb-

ing, NAF Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, in a statement yesterday in Abuja, said the operation was conducted on Thursday.

Daramola explained that the air strike which was conducted on Thursday followed Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions.

He said: "Accordingly, the ATF dispatched two Alpha Jets to attack the location, scoring accurate hits in the target area, which led to the

destruction of some of the structures and equipment as well as the killing of several terrorists."

Meanwhile, the MNJTF's Chief of Military Public Information, Col. Timothy Antigha, in a statement made available to journalists in Abuja yesterday, said the report was a desperate attempt by certain individuals to promote falsehood.

He said the very last engagement between the MNJTF and ISWAP was on July 29 when ISWAP lost 10 terrorists, including four suicide bombers and equipment.

He said: "The general public is, therefore, alerted and advised not to be misled by purveyors of fake news."

"ISWAP and their collaborators are down and haemorrhaging, hence the desperation to declare victory where no action took place."

Antigha added that it was surprising that fake news reflecting much more than the opposite was being circulated.

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Kunle Olayemi



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