

Zamfara: Troops kill 40 bandits

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Troops of Operation Hadarin Daji (OPHD) have in the last one killed about 40 suspected bandits in different parts of Zamfara State.

For over a decade now, people in the state have had sleepless nights until Governor Bello Matawalle came on board in May 2019 when he initiated peace dialogue which facilitated the return of normalcy.

But suddenly, people have witnessed the gradual re-

turn of killings, kidnappings, rustle of thousands of domestic animals by the dangerous groups. The situation compelled the state government to reengage the military to combat the renewed criminal activities.

New Telegraph findings showed that the troops of the OPHD had within last one week killed about 40 bandits in the bushes and villages across Bungudu and Maru.



Soldiers

local government areas of the state.

The villages of Koli, Tungar-Mata, Dadinkowa and Jankura in Bagega District of Anka Local Government as well as in Nasarawa area of Gusau Local Government Area were cleared by the troops through the use of fighter jets and helicopters.

Sources close to the military operations confirmed that about 1,000 cows and over 500 sheep were intercepted at one location alone when the bandits tried to use a formidable route of Buzaye bushes to cross to Zaria in Kaduna State but fled on seeing the troops.

One of the sources said many kidnap victims, including the recently kidnapped village head of Wuya in Gummi Local Government Area were rescued while several weapons including AK47, G3 rifles and yet to be identified number of magazines, ammunition and money as well as some motorcycles and drugs were abandoned by the fleeing criminals.

"At the moment, some military intelligence personnel are spread around the areas of operation to track down those who escaped with bullet wounds so that they would be handed over to the relevant authorities along with arrested ones," the source said.

A couple of weeks ago, the Governor, Matawalle, declared full war against the bandits for their renewed attacks while still leaving the peace initiative open.

During an emergency press conference, Matawalle warned traditional rulers, who are aiding the bandits and their informants to be ready to face the wrath of the law.

nander killed in Borno

talion, Operation Lafiya Dole, deployed in Forward Operating Base Kanama, Yunusari Local Government Area of Yobe State, neutralised scores of the Boko Haram Terrorists/Islamic State's West Africa Province insurgents who attempted to infiltrate their location on March 27, 2020.

The terrorists, he added, were severely decimated by ground forces, supported by the Air component of Operation Lafiya Dole.

He said: "They withdrew in disarray under superior fire power and were subsequently crushed by own troops.

"Furthermore, during the encounter several terrorists

were neutralised while one Gun Truck and various arms and ammunition were captured by the troops.

"These include one DSHK Gun, two AK47 rifles, two AK47 rifle magazines, one Rocket Propelled Grenade bomb, 273 rounds of Anti-Aircraft Gun ammunition, 101 rounds of 7.62mm (NATO) ammunition, 15 jerricans of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and a Boko Haram terrorists' flag.

"The Military High Command has congratulated the gallant troops for their resilience, courage and dedication to the noble cause of defending our fatherland against the criminal elements.

"They were equally enjoined to continue to be steadfast and relentless against the enemies of our nation."

