

Missing Soldiers: Several Villagers Killed As Military Pounds Benue Community

April 8, 2021 Cephias Iorhemen Comment(0)

Gunmen kill Chinese expatriate, two policemen, kidnap others
We'll ensure return of peace to warring communities -Ortom

Men of the Nigerian Armed Forces yesterday pounded Shangev-Tiev in Konshisha Local Government Area of Benue State, following reports that two soldiers were missing in the community. The operation, which involved deployment of military helicopters using missile launchers, left scores of residents dead and property said to worth billions of naira destroyed.

This came a few hours after gunmen killed two policemen, a Chinese expatriate and many others between Shitile in Katsina-Ala and Ukum local government areas of the state. Also, Governor Samuel Ortom promised that his administration would do everything under the law to return peace to warring communities of Konshisha and Oju local government areas. New Telegraph was informed that as a result of the military onslaught in Konshisha, hordes of residents, including women and children, have been rendered homeless.

The operation in Konshisha is linked to the two officers of the Nigerian Army said to be on routine patrol in the local government area which has been having communal crisis with its Oju counterpart, but reportedly went missing. According to reports, three soldiers were initially missing but one of them was later found. It was learnt that pilots of the aircraft flew as low as between five and 10 metres above the roof level, reducing several houses to rubble. Troops of the Operation Whirl-Stroke (OPWS) yesterday carried out a raid on the community during which hideouts of the criminals who attacked soldiers around Bonta village and adjoining communities in Konshisha Local Government Area were destroyed.

The troops also neutralised 12 bandits who were part of the gang which carried out the attack on the soldiers. "The troops stormed the vil-lage with helicopters and with the support of land troops, they destroyed all houses and hideouts suspected to be housing bandits in the area," a source said. At press time, residents of Bonta village and environs have all deserted their homes and were taking refuge at Tse- Agbaragba, headquarters of Konshisha Local Government Area. The Force Commander of Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS), Major Gen. Adeyemi Yekini, could be reached to confirm the operation as his phone lines were switched off. However, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Catherine Sewuese Anene, confirmed the killing of two policemen and Chinese expatriate Gunmen among others.