

Insecurity: Army kills over 20 bandits, rescues 30 victims in Niger

Daniel Atori
MINNA

The Nigerian military has killed over 20 bandits following a gun duel that lasted for over 5 hours in Allawa community in Shiro Local Government

Area of Niger State

This is coming just as it also announced that several of the bandits escaped with bullet wounds and that over 30 victims were rescued by the soldiers in the operation that took place on Thursday in the area.

Saturday Telegraph gathered that out of the two soldiers who sustained injuries during the operation, one died and the other is currently responding to treatment in an undisclosed hospital in the state.

Our correspondent

gathered that the incident occurred after one of the abductees was sent by the bandits to buy foodstuffs and fuel for the group with a threat that others would be killed should he tell anyone about his plight or fail to return to camp.

A resident who pleaded anonymity told our correspondent that in the process of buying the foodstuffs and other items that the military personnel who have been stationed to keep watch over the town were alerted.

The abductee was apprehended and after interrogation, he was made to follow the soldiers into the bandits' hideout in the forest.

However, before they got into the forest, they were sighted by the bandits who opened fire on them prompting a gun duel which left 25 bandits dead while the soldiers sustained one loss.

The resident who commended the military said the abductees were rescued

without ransom and that several of the bandits took to their heels with bullet wounds.

Saturday Telegraph further learnt that Allawa town has been condoned off by the security task force and that the military personnel are awaiting directives from the Army Headquarters to flush them out from their new hideout.

As at the time of filing this report, efforts made to get a reaction from the Public Relations Officer of the 31 Artillery Brigade in Minna proved abortive while the phone number of the Commissioner of Internal Security in the state, Emmanuel Umar was not reachable.

2023 elections show democracy maturing in Nigeria, Buhari tells Commonwealth leaders

Lawrence Olayo
ABUJA

President Muhammadu Buhari has said that the peaceful conduct of the 2023 gener-

would make subsequent polls even better.

He said "these elections saw a remarkable turnout of voters and proof that Nigeria's democracy is maturing. Despite some pockets of violence, we have demonstrat-

and credible outcomes. Though we are aware that challenges still exist, we are committed to working towards a greater participation of all Nigerians in the democratic process, including those in the diaspora."

his Administration in 2018.

The Nigerian leader used the opportunity to bid farewell to his colleagues, expressing joy at shared aspirations and values within the period:

"As I come before you to-