

# Troops Kill 20 Bandits, Rescue Kidnapped Victims in Niger

**Kingsley Nwezeh** in Abuja

The operatives of the Joint Security Task Force have killed 20 bandits and rescued five kidnap victims during a clearance operation in Gaskiya Bana, a border community between Niger and Kaduna States.

Likewise, the Department of State Services (DSS) promised to deal ruthlessly with terrorists,

bandits and other subversive elements threatening the peace of the country.

The kidnapped victims were said to have been in the custody of the bandits for over one month. The bandits were said to be working for a notorious bandits Kingpin Alhaji Leyi who has his operational base at Gaskiya Bana in Munya LGA. The operation lasted for about five hours.

Niger State Commissioner for Internal Security and Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Emmanuel Umar confirmed the incident.

He said saying the taskforce invaded the terrorist hideout who abandoned their victims and loot.

According to Umar, the task force ran into an ambush by the terrorists at Unguwan Aboki but were able to repelled them as scores were neutralised and others

forced to retreat.

The commissioner identified the rescued victims as Yakubu Abuba, Susan Sunday, Patience Sunday, Lazarus John and Bulus Yahaya adding that they were all abducted from Chukun village in Kaduna State about a month ago.

"All the victims have been debriefed and since reunited with their families after medical examination," he said.