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Breaking News

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Troops kill 'Spiritual Counsellor' to Gana, wanted Benue crime lord

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By Joseph Erunke

ABUJA—TROOPS of the Nigerian Army have killed a famous spiritual leader in Benue State during a raid on his shrine at Tor-Dunga town, Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of the state.



The chief priest, Mr. Tordue Gber (*Tiv Swem*) was gunned down by troops of 707 Special Forces Brigade, Nigerian Army, last Monday, during the raid by the troops.

Army spokesman, Sani Usman, a Brigadier-General, who said this in a statement late yesterday, said the raid was informed by reports that Gber's shrine was a hideout for suspected notorious criminals and militia in the state.

The late native doctor, according to Usman, was acting as spiritual adviser to the wanted armed criminal, Akwazar Terwase, alias *Gana*.

Brigadier-General Usman said: "During the operation, the troops succeeded in arresting the occupant of the shrine, Tiv Swem, an ally of the wanted notorious criminal, Akwazar Terwase, alias *Gana*.

"It will be recalled that he was declared wanted by security agencies and has been at large since 2016.

"Preliminary investigation shows that Mr. Tordue Gber (*Tiv Swem*) acts as the spiritual counsellor that provides *Gana* with diabolical powers and the shrine serves as hideout for wanted armed militia, meeting and planning point for operations and logistics base for the criminals that operate in Benue, Nasarawa and Taraba states."

How he was killed

The native doctor, the statement said, was arrested along with one of his accomplices, Mr. Atoo Francis, “while planning to carry out an attack and abduct one Mr. Zaya at Tse Bente village in the same local government area.

“However, Mr. Tordue was shot dead during the struggle to disarm him.”

He said the troops recovered a locally-fabricated pistol, two Beretta pistols, 11 rounds of 9mm ammunition, three motorcycles and assorted charms.

Other items, he added, included warm clothings for concealing weapons, two mobile telephones and three electric power generators among others.

