anditry: Troops eliminate 'Emir', notorious bandit leader , 59 others in Zamfara shootout















By: Kingsley Omonobi – Abuja.

...Over run bandits camps, capture arms, ammunition ...4 soldiers killed

In continuation of the on-going intensive clearance operations against armed bandits in Zamfara state, troops of Operation Hadarin Daji (OPHD) have eliminated a most wanted bandit leader named 'Emir' and neutralized 59 others in several operational confrontations.



It would be recalled that on the 3rd of October 2019, troops deployed at Sunke in Anka Local Government Area, troops came under unprovoked attack by armed bandits despite the ongoing peace process in the State.

However, the gallant troops successfully repelled the attack and neutralized 19 bandits in the process.

Unfortunately, 4 soldiers lost their lives during the encounter.

A statement by Captain Ayobami Oni-Orisan, Acting Information Officer noted that "As a result of the encounter, troops further commenced aggressive clearance operations nicknamed 'Op Mushare' on the 6th of October 2019, with a view to apprehending the recalcitrant bandits.

"Consequently, between 6th and 7th of October 2019, within Bawa Daji general area, 3 heavily fortified camps at Gubarawa, Baw Daji and Bawa Daji Forest were destroyed when the troops overpowered the bandits, overran the 3 camps and neutralized 39 bandits, (including the notorious bandits' leader known as "Emir") and many bandits were obviously wounded.

"The following items were recovered from the bandits/camps: 3 AK 47 rifles, 421 unit 7.62mm (special) ammunition, 30 PKT rifle rounds, 10 magazines, 5 Motorcycles, 177 Cows, 7 handsets, 2 handset batteries, Substance suspected to be Cannabis Sativa, Charms while four soldiers were wounded during the operation.

"Similarly, in continuation with the offensive against the bandits, clearance operations were also extended to the general area of Kuruwa, Kawara, Kalahe and Zango villages in Bakura Local Government Area where troops encountered a large number of marauders at their camp in Zango village on 8 October 2019.

"The determined troops overwhelmed the armed bandits with a high volume of fire, neutralized 19 of the criminals and recovered 1 motorcycle.

"Additionally, troops also arrested a suspected bandit Abubakar Umar along road Lamba – Damri axis with the sum of 400,000 Naira presumably for purchase of bandits logistics supplies.

"The suspect will be handed over to the civil police for further investigation/necessary action.

Additionally, on the 8th of October 2019, troops on fighting patrol in Bukkuyum general area intercepted some logistics items en route to bandits' camps.

"The items include: 13 Jerry cans of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), 8 Litres of engine oil and 4 Motorcycle tyre tubes

"Furthermore, on the 9th of October 2019, troops deployed in Anka general area, based on intelligence intercepted and arrested suspected bandits' logistics suppliers named Lawali Umar and Jamilu Liman around Kturuvillage in Anka Local Government Area of the State purchasing some logistics items for onward movement to the bandits' camps.

"Consequently, the troops recovered the under-listed items: 4 Jerry cans of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), 1 Carton of Malt, 3 Packets of soft drinks and 1 packet of Nutri milk

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"In a related development, based on intelligence indicating that armed bandits were seen crossing with some rustled cows at Daki Tak was in Anka Local Government Area, OPHD troops deployed in the general area immediately ambushed the criminals along road Anka-Daki Tak was.

"The criminals fled and abandoned the rustled cows in the area.

"Troops pursued the fleeing criminals and successfully neutralized 20 of them and recovered the following items: 2 Motorcycle, 6 magazines, 160 rounds of 7.62mm (NATO) ammunition and many links, 60 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition and 296 cows

"Presently, troops have dominated the general area with aggressive patrols, snap checkpoints and ambushes amongst another line of operations to deny the criminals freedom of action.

"This onslaught against armed banditry and all other criminal activities will continue until banditry is effectively combated.

"Troops will continue to remain highly committed and professional in carrying out assigned tasks in line with the extant Rules of Engagement and Code of Conduct.

"Accordingly, the Force Commander OPHD and Acting General Officer Commanding 8 Division, Nigerian Army, Brigadier-General Aminu Bande commended the troops for their commitment and reassured the good people of Zamfara and other neighbouring states of the determination of the Army and other security agencies to secure lives and properties.

"He further solicits for the support of the public to continue to support the on-going campaign against armed banditry by providing timely and credible information to OPHD troops and other security agencies to ensure prompt and decisive action.

"The FC also used the opportunity to warn all recalcitrant bandits and their cohorts to lay down their arms and embrace the on-going peace process of the Zamfara State Government or face full military action."

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