

Military kills 7 bandits, rescues 22 kidnapped persons in North West

•Arrests wanted Boko Haram commander, drug peddlers, gunrunners in North East

•Recovers 345,000 litres of illaegally refined Automotive Gas Oil and 1,572.3 barrels of stolen crude oil

By Kingsley Omonobi,
Abuja

IN continuation of military operations to rid criminal elements across the country, troops of the armed forces of Nigeria encountered armed bandits in the North West, terrorists in the North East and crude oil saboteurs in the South-South, rescuing several kidnapped victims, killing bandits and terrorists, while arresting drug peddlers, gun runners and armed robbery suspects.

Coordinator, Defence Media Operations, Major General John Eneche, who made this known at an update briefing on military operations in Abuja, noted that 22 kidnapped victims, including women and children, were rescued in Katsina state while seven armed bandits were killed in Zamfara state, adding that in the North Central zone, 14 Sara-Suka criminal were arrested by troops in their hideout in Jos North LGA.

He also disclosed that troops of the maritime component, while engaging crude oil saboteurs in the Niger Delta, recovered about 345,000 litres of products suspected to be illegally refined Automotive Gas Oil and 1,572.3 barrels of stolen crude oil.

The Coordinator said: "In the North-West zone, troops of Operation Hadarin Daji, on September 17, 2020, responded to a distress call and rescued eight kidnapped vic-

tims from suspected bandits at Fankama and Sabon Layi area of Faskari Local Government Area of Katsina State.

"This was as a result of actionable intelligence that bandits dressed in military camouflage uniforms were sighted with kidnapped victims, the troops responded swiftly and made contact with the bandits forcing them to abandon the victims.

"In the same vein, troops of Operation Sahel Sanity while on patrol at Chabas, responded to a distress call and rescued a truck driver, 11 women and children who were on their way to Batsari Market but were kidnapped by suspected bandits along Shimfida - Gurbi road.

"Within this period, troops deployed at Forward Operations Base Dansadau arrested a suspected bandit on a motorcycle on his way to Dandalla village in Dansadau, Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State with one Pump Action rifle and 3 live cartridges carefully concealed in a bag.

"Similarly, the Air Component of Operation Thunder Strike killed several armed bandits and their meeting venue in air strikes executed at Kwaimbana forest area of Kaduna State.

"Relatedly, two gunrunners were arrested in possession of 1,620 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition at Kudaru Hill along Kaduna-Jos Road in Lere Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the ammunition was to be delivered to one bandit leader, at a location in Dansadau Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

"Equally, on September 18, 2020, troops of Forward Operations Base Burukusuma patrol team killed seven armed bandits at Magira village of Zamfara State.

"Furthermore, on 19 September 2020, troops of Operation Hadarin Daji in conjunction with vigilantes arrested two bandits with N1,300,000.00 at Baworaje village in Talata Mafara Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

"In the North East zone, troops of Operation Lafiya Dole conducted series of offensive air and ground operations on terrorists' enclaves at different locations in Borno, Yobe, Taraba and Adamawa states.

"Notably, a high profile BHT commander, surrendered with four of his wives to own troops. The operations also led to the arrest of one BHT fighter at Kamuya in Biu Local Government Area of Borno State and 9 other criminals in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State.

"Caches of arms and ammunition as well as equipment and motorcycles were also recovered.

"Meanwhile, troops repelled BHT/ISWAP attacks on civilians and own troops at Wajiroko in Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State on 17 and 20 September 2020 and neutralized several of their fighters and recovered arms and ammunition.

In the North-Central zone, troops of Operation Safe Haven, within the last one week, conducted several raids at various locations in the zone which resulted in appreciable successes.

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