

Troops kill bandits leader 'Rufai Maikaji', neutralize dozen others in Kaduna

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Nigerian soldiers

By Ibrahim HassanWuyo

Troops in Kaduna State have killed Rufai Maikaji, a deadly bandit who commanded over a hundred fighters that terrorized communities in the state.

Samuel Aruwan, Commissioner of Home Affairs and Internal Security said on Thursday, that the development was after painstaking checks with security agencies and careful exploitation of numerous human intelligence sources.

“The Kaduna State Government can authoritatively confirm that one Rufai Maikaji and dozens of his fighters were neutralized during air interdictions around the fringes of Malul Forest in Igabi LGA of Kaduna Central Senatorial District,” he said.

“The aerial missions in which ‘Rufai Maikaji’ and his gang were neutralized were conducted in late February when he (Rufai Maikaji) and the bandits under his command, on sighting ground troops, escaped from Anaba village of Igabi LGA where they killed some citizens, burnt houses and kidnapped some locals.”

“The prompt response by the air platforms ended the reign of terror maintained by ‘Rufai Maikaji’ and his bloodsucking accomplices,” he said.

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From further checks, ‘Rufai Maikaji’ and his group were confirmed to be responsible for the killing, kidnapping, and cattle rustling in many communities in Giwa, Igabi and Chikun LGAs, especially in the following locations: Iyatawa, Garke, Kumfa, Bakali, Karau-karau and Galadimawa, Anaba, Kerawa, Hashimawa, Sabon Birni, Buruku general area and parts of Chikun LGA axis of Kaduna-Birnin Gwari Road.

‘Rufai Maikaji’ is said to have begun his ignoble career as an errand boy to some deadly bandits in and around Sabon Birni general area of Igabi LGA. From this position, he grew to become a household name in banditry.

The Kaduna State Government, military, police, DSS, and all agencies have assured residents of the communities that suffered the brutality of 'Rufai Maikaji', that aggressive pursuit of other accomplices who escaped the onslaught is in full swing, and they will be caught sooner rather than later.

Governor Nasir El-Rufai praised the military for taking down the bandit leader and his accomplices. The Governor further assured them of the firm commitment of the government and people of Kaduna State in the ongoing operations against the bandits throughout the state.

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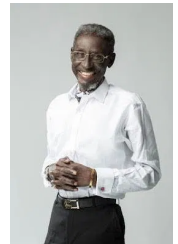
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