



Notorious bandit leader, Alhaji Shanono, 17 others killed in Kaduna air strikes

By Kingsley Omonobi

ABUJA—The air component of Operation Whirl Punch in the North West has killed a notorious bandits leader, Alhaji Shanono, and 17 of his men at Ukambo, as village about 131km from Kaduna.

The killings came as the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Oladayo Amao, who commended troops for the feat, advised them not to let down their guards but to sustain the tempo in the onslaught against terrorists and bandits terrorising the country.

The troops also rescued no fewer than 26 kidnapped victims in the attack that took place on August 9, 2022.

Director of NAF Public Relations, Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet, who disclosed this in a statement, yesterday, said: "This is even as intensive air operations endured in the entire military theatres of operation as NAF aircraft continue to seek and decimate enemies of the state in their attempts to make life unbearable for innocent Nigerians.

"From the briefings received by the CAS, it is evident that so far, the directives given to the operational commanders is yielding the requisite outcome.

"Air Marshal Amao, in addressing the commanders, reminded them of the need to remain steadfast and focused on the task ahead" noting: "We can't afford to let down our guards.

"In the North-West, specifically, the effect of strikes undertaken by NAF aircraft have revealed that several terrorists' have been eliminated and their enclaves destroyed.

"One of such strikes, which occurred August 9, 2022 resulted in the elimination of a well-known terrorist leader operating in Kaduna State.

"Indeed, following receipt of intelligence on August 9, 2022 that a well-known terrorists' kingpin, Alhaji Shanono, had scheduled a meeting with his foot soldiers at Ukambo, a village about 131km from Kaduna, the Air Component of Operation Whirl Punch dispatched aircraft for interdiction mission at the location.

"Overhead the location, terrorists were sighted under clusters of trees at the foot of Ukambo high ground and after ensuring the absence of civilian settlements within the location, the crew received the authorisation to strike.

"Feedback from local sources disclosed that over 30 rifles and 20 motorbikes were destroyed while about 18 terrorists, including Alhaji Shanono, were neutralised while others sustained injuries.

"Sources also revealed that no fewer than 26 kidnapped victims earlier held by the terrorists were released as a result of the airstrike.

"Similar strikes were also undertaken in the North-East as well. There, the Air Component of Operation Hadin Kai had their tasks well cut out for them as they have been fully engaged in conducting air interdiction missions on terrorists' targets in Borno State.

"One of such operations was conducted on August 6, 2022, at Gazuwa, about 1.2 kilometres to Gargash, after intelligence revealed that infighting for relevance and supremacy was underway between terrorists of the Shekau faction and terrorists aligned to Islamic State of West Africa, ISWAP.

"The state of confusion and disorder among the 2 terrorists' factions thus presented an opportunity for a surprise strike by NAF pilots which was carried out using 2 aircraft types.

"It should be noted that though the map coordinates led the pilots to the exact site of the infighting, the location also had an ISWAP flag hoisted on the structure and three solar panels on the rooftop.

●As Chief of Air Staff tasks troops not to let down guards ●Reviews ongoing air operations in Kaduna

"Intelligence received and corroborated by local sources revealed the strike was a success as the terrorists did not anticipate it with several eliminated and others injured.

"The impact of the strikes is said to have reverberated through the remaining terrorists' camps who are beginning to realise that they are fighting an unjust and lost cause that will no doubt lead to their death.

Court remands suspected cultist, Oko-ilu, over murder, arson, cultism



The suspect being led by policemen to the court.

By Shina Abubakar

OSOGBO—An Osun State Chief Magistrate's Court has remanded a suspected cultist, Rasheed Hammed, popularly known as Oko-ilu, in Ilesa correctional centre over alleged murder.

The Police arrested Rasheed, who

had been terrorising, Ede town, last Saturday after three months of being declared wanted for committing various offences.

Oko-ilu, who was represented by Taiwo Awokunle, was docked, yesterday, on a nine-count charge before Chief Magistrate Olusegun Ayilara in Osogbo.

The charge includes conspiracy to

"Most are said to be contemplating surrendering just like others before them.

"Meanwhile, sources have confirmed that the Nigerian military are exuding so much confidence especially with the level of successes being recorded.

"They are also optimistic that the counter-terrorism strategies and efforts will in no distant time yield the expected outcome even beyond the North-East."

commit felony, unlawful killings, engaging in unlawful society and illegal possession of arms among others.

A copy of the charge sheet, which was obtained by Vanguard alleged that the defendant between February 13 and August 7, 2022, killed Hassan Adejebi Idowu, also known as Delta, contrary to section 319(1) of the state criminal law.

He was also said to have set on fire the houses, cars and motorcycles belonging to Kolade Jelili and Olayiwola Wakeel as well as shot police Inspector, Gbenga Eke, with intent to kill him, contrary to Sections 443 and 320 of the state criminal law 2002.

Oko-ilu was also said to belong to a cult group, Eiyee Confraternity, and in possession of locally made guns, offences punishable under sections 64 of the state criminal law 2002 and section 3(1) of the Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) act, laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

His pleas were not taken as the court ordered the prosecutor, Inspector Elisha Olusegun, to duplicate the case to the Director of Public Prosecutions for counsel.

Aylara then ordered that Oko-ilu be remanded in Ilesa correctional service and adjourned the case till October 7, 2022.

Road users chase away robbery suspects along Lagos-Ibadan expressway

By Bose Adelaja

LAGOS—There was apprehension along Lagos/Ibadan Expressway, yesterday, when some brave road users disrupted the activities of four robbery suspects by pelting pebbles at them.

The incident occurred on Long Bridge, inward Lagos State, opposite Mikano/Karamah city, at about 5.55am.

Narrating their experiences to Vanguard, the road users said their Mazda car took off from Mowe, Ogun State, when they

sighted the robbery suspects.

One of the road users, Mr Sheriffdeen Owokunle, said seven passengers were on board the Mazda car when the suspects were sighted in black cardigans, carrying guns and robbing unsuspecting road users.

He said: "The journey was very smooth from Mowe but as we approached the Long Bridge, the driver was advised to be alert because of the perennial gridlock ahead.

"Shortly, the driver peeped through his mirror and sighted the

suspects on the bridge stopping and robbing road users.

"People were scared and many drivers abandoned their vehicles as their occupants fled to different directions to seek refuge.

"Fortunately, one of the road users shouted on top of his voice advising co-road users to stop scampering for safety but face the suspects. This later paved the way as the road users pelted pebbles at the suspects while some drivers brought out cutlasses, iron rods and faced the suspects.

"Sensing danger, the suspects descended the bridge and fled the scene."

NDLEA seizes Cannabis Sativa worth N30m in Nasarawa

By David Odama

LAFIA—Nasarawa State Command of National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has confiscated 1,659 kilograms of Cannabis Sativa worth N30 million.

The state Commander of NDLEA, Peter Odaudu, who made the disclosure, yesterday, in Lafia said officers and men of the Akwanga Area Command on patrol on Tuesday intercepted a J5 Boxer vehicle with number plates: KTG 71 XC, at about 10.24 a.m, travelling from Ogere in Ogun State to Bauchi.

He said that upon sighting operatives from afar, the driver and another occupant of the vehicle disembarked and ran away.

Odaudu said the operatives, being suspicious of the vehicle loaded with goods left unattended, laid ambush and arrested the driver when he came and attempted to drive off the vehicle.

He said that upon search, the operatives discovered 1,556 compressed bread-like parcel of Cannabis Sativa, which weighed 1,659 kilograms, concealed behind pineapple fruits loaded in the vehicle.

The commander said the seizure was unparalleled in the history of the agency in the state and recalled that it was coming on the heels of two

similar massive drug seizures recorded in the month of July.

He explained that on July 6, the command seized 367.6 kilograms of Cannabis Sativa and arrested two suspects around the Emir's palace in Lafia, and on July 9, another 1,029.5 kilograms were seized on Doma Road, concealed in a truck conveying natural gas from Edo State.

Odaudu said all the suspects would be prosecuted at the end of investigation.

He restated the commitment of the NDLEA to tackle the menace of illicit drugs from the state and the country.

Meanwhile, the driver of the J5 vehicle confessed to the crime and said he was conveying the consignment for his boss who resides in Bauchi.