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NIGERIA: THE GATHERING STORM

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Nigerian Air Force says it has killed 30 Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) members, in the northeast of the country. The NAF says they destroyed critical infrastructure, including vehicles, motorcycles and logistical assets in Borno state, essentially disabling ISWAPs capabilities. The bombardment also demolished a facility that served as a food processing hub for the terrorists,

in the Kolleram area. According to Air Vice Marshal Edward Gabkwet, NAF Director of Public Relations and Information: "The success of these airstrikes underscores NAF's commitment to eradicating terrorism and ensuring the safety and security of Nigerian citizens." The NAF killed some high-ranking ISWAP members, including three commanders- Mallam Ari, Ali Dawud and Bakura Fallujah. <https://www.cajnewsafrika.com/2024/04/17/islamic-state-commanders-killed-in-nigeria-operation/>



Bandits invaded Angwar Danko village, Kaduna State, on Wednesday. At about 6pm, the men stormed the village, shooting randomly, forcing the villagers to flee into the forest. Some people were taken presumably for ransom. Yahaya Musa Dan Salio, a representative for Kakangi Ward confirmed the event. "I just received a call from the area informing me that dozens of my constituents have been abducted. The bandits have surrounded the village, and

as we speak, they are still there, taking their victims into the forest. The situation is dire." <https://dailypost.ng/2024/04/17/kaduna-bandits-invade-angwar-danko-kidnap-unspecific-number-of-villagers/>



Bandits have killed at least 26 people in attacks on three communities in Gwer West Local Government Area, Benue state. The attacks took place over Sunday and Monday, and they targeted Mbakunwande, and laora communities/ the victims included six state security personnel. Chairman of the Gwer West LGA, Henry Agba, says, “the attack started on Saturday. Six security operatives of the state, comprising Benue Security Community Volunteer Guards and

Livestock Guards, were killed. They escorted the family of a deceased person to a village called Mbakunwande, where they had gone to bury the loved one, and they ambushed them and killed them. On Saturday, at about 11pm, they attacked a community in Iaroa, and 14 people were killed. Also on Monday, they attacked a community along Naka-Adoka road where the villagers have so far recovered six dead bodies, and many people were injured and receiving treatment at some clinics withing the LGA.” <https://dailypost.ng/2024/04/16/bandits-kill-26-including-6-security-guards-in-benue/>

Governor Hyacinth Alia, a former Catholic Priest, has expressed shock at the attacks. He said ‘the Governor of Benue state, Rev Fr. Hyacinth Alia condemns in strong terms the recent horrific attacks on different communities in Gwer-West LGA of Benue state by men suspected to be armed herders where a number of persons were brutally killed, and scores of others kidnapped. Governor Alia wonders why such grossly offensive attacks continue on Benue communities despite the relentless efforts of government to arrest the ugly situation. He calls on Benue people, particularly those at the frontline of the attacks to cooperate with the government and security agencies to bring perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice. The governor extends his deep condolences to those whose relatives were killed in the attacks, calling on security agencies to expedite their search and ensure safe release of those kidnapped. He assures Benue people that his government, in union with security chiefs and traditional rulers is committed to concerted action to ending insecurity in Benue state.”

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/04/benue-killings-gov-alia-expresses-shock-says-attack-horrific/>



In Zamfara state, on 15 April, the Counter-terrorism counter-insurgency operations killed 12 terrorists after a shootout while ambushing their hideouts. Maj Gen Onyema Nwachukwu, director of army public relations said troops made serious steps towards the bandits, ending up in Maru Local Government Area, where they found and destroyed the camp they found. “Acting on credible intelligence on the activities of the terrorists, troops

conducted a targeted clearance operation to dismantle the suspected terrorists operational base in the town of Maru. In a fierce gun battle with the terrorists, the gallant troops neutralized 12 of the terrorists, compelling the others to flee. The troops also recovered one AK-47 rifle, one magazine, 12 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, and two locally fabricated gun. Additionally, our troops captured 10 operational motorbikes used for mobility by the terrorists and 18 rustled cows. The troops destroyed the terrorists base after dislodging them.”

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/04/troops-kill-12-terrorists-after-shootout-in-zamfara/>