searched the entire house, but didn't take anything with them. After they left, I picked up my son's body and went to bury him." That night, Mallam Yusuf crossed the bridge to Fotokol in Cameroon with his wife and six other children. From Fotokol, the Cameroonian army transported him and many other refugees to Minawao camp, near Maroua.

Hassan Kyari (not real name), a 63-year-old driver, told Amnesty International that Boko Haram fighters went from house to house the day after they took over. "They started entering houses. They came and collected my neighbour Alhaji around 4pm. They took him away and brought him back after two hours, shot him in front of his house and left the body there... He was 70 years old...We all became scared and terrified." Hassan left that night with his two wives and 10 children. They walked to Fotokol where they stayed with friends for two months. They then moved to Minawao camp.

Hamidah Tijani (not real name), a 48-year-old woman who stayed in Gamborou until February 2015 told Amnesty International that when she first left her house the day after the attack, bodies were lying in the street: "We have seen bodies of people who have been killed, even children of 10 years. Just on the street. My neighbour was counting as we walked, there were about 45, in separate locations. But then near Arabic Village [a university campus] there were around 50. I think maybe Boko Haram told them to stay there, then open fire at once to them." Three days later the Boko Haram leadership instructed their members and the remaining residents to collect all bodies and bury them. Some residents were taken to a village on the road to Kalabalge and participated in burying corpses in a mass grave. Hamidah saw people moving bodies to that site and witnessed the burial. She estimated that 200 bodies were buried in that grave.

BAMA: DOZENS OF PEOPLE KILLED AND ALMOST THE ENTIRE TOWN DESTROYED
Boko Haram fighters repeatedly targeted Bama, the second largest town in Borno State, in 2013 and 2014, killing civilians and destroying property. In one of the deadliest attacks on 19 February 2014, they killed 89 people, according to a list compiled by human rights defenders and elders in the community.[122]

Amnesty International was able to collect detailed information about another attack that took place on 1 September 2014. Witnesses interviewed by Amnesty International estimated that Boko Haram killed more than 50 civilians, mainly men of fighting age, and imprisoned others.[123] Amnesty International received consistent accounts from both Bama residents and military sources that the military stationed in the town had been warned of the impending Boko Haram attack, but did not take sufficient measures to protect and evacuate civilians.

A military source who monitored developments in the region told Amnesty International on 25 August that a local official in Bama had received a letter from Boko Haram announcing the attack and handed it over to the local military commander.[124]

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[122] Amnesty International interviews, June and July 2014, and February 2015. List is on file with Amnesty International.
[123] Amnesty International interviews September 2014, February and March 2015. Amnesty International was not able to verify the precise number of deaths. We gathered 18 testimonies, including 13 from eyewitnesses to the attack, one from a reliable activist who continued to collect information from Bama after he had left the town, one from a military source and two from civil society members who documented information on the attack.
[123] Amnesty International interview, September 2014.
[124] Amnesty International interview, August 2014. The letter was delivered on 24 August.