

people were rushed to hospital.¹⁷⁷

ABDUCTIONS AND IMPRISONMENT

The abduction of 276 girls from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Borno state, brought Boko Haram international notoriety. Abductions are a consistent part of Boko Haram's attacks and Amnesty International has documented 38 cases of abduction by Boko Haram. It has gathered 77 testimonies on abductions, including with 31 eyewitnesses and with 28 women and girls who were abducted by Boko Haram and escaped.

It is difficult to estimate how many people have been abducted by Boko Haram. The number of women and girls is likely to be higher than 2,000. According to a human rights defender who has verified and documented many cases of abductions, between November 2014 and February 2015 alone, more than 500 women and 1,000 children were abducted from Gwoza LGA.¹⁷⁸ The majority of people abducted by Boko Haram were unmarried women and girls, many of whom were forced into marriage with Boko Haram fighters. Men and boys abducted by Boko Haram were forced to provide services for Boko Haram or to join them as fighters.

Boko Haram also imprisoned thousands of civilians in its camps and in towns under its control, generally holding them in large houses, prisons or other buildings, under armed guard. In Bama town hundreds of men were held by Boko Haram in the town's prison for several weeks before being executed. Amnesty International has also documented instances of imprisonment of civilians in areas under Boko Haram control in houses in Baga, Beta and Gwoza, and in a makeshift prison in Ngoshe. It is likely that this practice occurred in other towns under Boko Haram control.

CIVILIANS ABDUCTED FROM GUMSURI, 12 AND 14 DECEMBER 2014

On 12 December 2014, at around 7pm, a group of Boko Haram fighters went to Gumsuri, Damboa LGA. Abba Badama (not real name), a business man from Gumsuri, told Amnesty International that he saw approximately 20 Boko Haram fighters arrive. Abba said he could hear them as they went to several houses and shot dead 24 men, including the main imam of Gumsuri and a rich merchant in the village. Abba attended the burial of the 24 men later that day.¹⁷⁹

After killing the men, Boko Haram rounded up the villagers and preached to them. Women were seated separately from the men. Abba Badama told Amnesty International: "First they preached to us. When they finished, they said everyone should make sacrifice. Younger ones should go and help the religion and make a jihad. We are making a war with non-muslims and *kuffir*." Abba says they then selected 50 boys and young men aged between 15 and 30 years old and took them away. Before they left, Boko Haram members looted houses and shops, taking money, food and mobile phones. Abba said that when Boko Haram arrived some villagers called the military, based 12 km away in Damboa town, but they only came the next day.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁷ Amnesty International interview, March 2015

¹⁷⁸ Amnesty International interviews, January and March 2015. The human rights defender has done extensive research on abductions and killings by Boko Haram fighters.

¹⁷⁹ Amnesty International interview, December 2014. The villagers heard the gunshots and after Boko Haram left, they found the corpses in the houses.

¹⁸⁰ Amnesty International interview, December 2014.