

and just buried the bodies.¹²³ Eyewitnesses confirmed to Amnesty International that in different locations around town local residents recovered a total of 35 corpses of men who had been arrested during the operation, all bearing marks of execution.¹²⁴

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION OF 12 MEN IN CHIKIDE, 18 JUNE 2014

On 18 June 2014, Nigerian soldiers detained nine men from the village of Chikide, Gwoza Local Government Area about 105 km from Maiduguri, and three men from the nearby village of Ngoshe. The bodies of all 12, with marks that suggested that they had been killed, were discovered the following day.¹²⁵

Eyewitnesses from Chikide told Amnesty International that on 18 June soldiers, whom they recognised as being based in nearby Kirawa barracks, came to the local mosque as people were finishing afternoon prayers. The witnesses described how after prayers the soldiers separated out nine men aged between 22 and 40 from the group. One witness said: "The army had come with two people in uniforms whose faces were covered. There were no ID numbers on the chest of the uniforms. They started pointing out people and selected nine youths."¹²⁶ The soldiers told the older men to go home. They then loaded the young men into military vehicles and drove away.

The following day, women from the village wanted to take food to the military barracks but someone told them that there were dead bodies in the forest by neighbouring Bokko village.¹²⁷ A group of men and women from Chikide went to look. An eyewitness told Amnesty International what he saw: "Most of them had their hands tied behind their back. Some had wounds on their face like they were beaten, some had cuts in their stomach like their stomach has been cut with knives. All of them no clothing, only one with clothes, the rest in short knickers. All of them had bullet wounds in different places. They were in one row."¹²⁸

Next to the bodies of the nine men from Chikide, the villagers also found three other bodies. They told Amnesty International that these men were from neighbouring Ngoshe.¹²⁹ All the men were buried the same day.

A military source who monitors the military operations in the area confirmed the incident to Amnesty International. He said the soldiers, who were part of Team A Mobile Brigade, based in Kirawa, had claimed the men were Boko Haram members.¹³⁰

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION OF FOUR MEN IN KONDUGA, 17 SEPTEMBER 2014

On 17 September 2014, the army repelled a Boko Haram attack on the military barracks in

¹²³ Amnesty International interview, July 2014.

¹²⁴ Amnesty International interviews, July 2014.

¹²⁵ Amnesty International gathered five testimonies, including from two witnesses who were present in Chikide at the time of the arrest and when the corpses were found, and one military source with detailed knowledge about the operations in the area.

¹²⁶ Amnesty International interview, June 2014.

¹²⁷ Amnesty International interview, June 2014.

¹²⁸ Amnesty International has a list with the names and ages of the men. Interviews June and July 2014.

¹²⁹ Amnesty International interviews, June and July 2014.

¹³⁰ Amnesty International interview, June 2014.

Konduga. Many soldiers and Boko Haram fighters died. The army captured five Boko Haram suspects, one of whom they identified as the Boko Haram commander Abubakar Shekau.¹³¹ He, along with three of the other suspects, died in custody. Video footage of the interrogation and photos showing the corpse of the alleged Boko Haram commander were posted online.¹³²

After Abubakar Shekau appeared in a new video statement, it became clear that the dead captive was someone else.¹³³ A military source confirmed to Amnesty International that the person that had been killed was not Shekau.¹³⁴

A Civilian JTF member from Konduga who witnessed the arrest of these men told Amnesty International that after soldiers had interrogated the man thought to be Shekau, the Officer in Charge ordered the other soldiers to break his legs and take him to the soldiers' lodge. The witness claims that once the Officer in Charge left, the junior officers shot and killed four of the five suspects, including the alleged Boko Haram commander.¹³⁵ It is unclear what happened to the fifth man.

The witness told Amnesty International that the detainees posed no threat and were murdered by soldiers; the video evidence confirms his statement.¹³⁶

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION OF 15 MEN AND BOYS IN POTISKUM, 5 NOVEMBER 2014

On 5 November 2014, early in the morning, soldiers and Mobile Police (MOPOL) officers in two flatbed trucks drove to Dogo Tebo ward, in Potiskum, Yobe state.

Residents told Amnesty International that the soldiers and MOPOL officers went into several houses and brought out 16 men and boys, aged between 13 and 40, and drove them away. Abubakar Doho (not his real name) told Amnesty International that they were looking for a specific individual who was not at home, and that the men might have been arrested in his place.¹³⁷ He said the men were taken to a police station and 15 of them were then transferred to the military barracks in the Government Reserved Area (GRA) of Potiskum. Another eyewitness to the arrest, who lived in the same street as the men arrested, confirmed the arrest and said that later in the afternoon, the police returned to arrest him and three others; they were released later that evening.¹³⁸

Residents told Amnesty International that they heard gunshots at around 10pm in the evening. The next morning, Abubakar and other residents and relatives of the men went to

¹³¹ On 24 September Defence Headquarters tweeted "Mohammed Bashir who has been acting or posing on videos as the deceased Shekau, the eccentric character died." They also released a statement on 24 September confirming his death and showing pictures of the dead body: www.defenceinfo.mil.ng/current-developments-in-counter-terrorism-campaign/.

¹³² See www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGbC03UTGhw

¹³³ The Nigerian military in a statement released on 2 October, insisted that "the individual who was appearing in video and claiming to be the leader of the terrorist group was killed in the Konduga battle in September." See: defenceinfo.mil.ng/the-purported-shekau-video-in-circulation-2/

¹³⁴ Amnesty International interview, October 2014.

¹³⁵ Amnesty International interview, October 2014.

¹³⁶ Amnesty International interview, October 2014.

¹³⁷ Amnesty International interview, November 2014.

¹³⁸ Amnesty International interview, November 2014.