

the mortuary in Potiskum General Hospital because they feared the men had been killed. They saw the dead bodies of 15 of the young men detained on 5 November.

Abubakar Doho described the corpses to Amnesty International: "I saw the 15 bodies. They shot them. Some in the head, some in the stomach and some in the chest. They beat them thoroughly and tied them with rope. The rope had been removed, but I saw the mark around the hands. There were bruises on most of the boys."¹³⁹ No autopsy was carried out and the relatives took the bodies with them for burial. A military source with knowledge of the operations in the north-east confirmed that the military had shot and killed the men.¹⁴⁰

EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION OF UMAR ABDULLAHI, SEPTEMBER 2013

On the afternoon of 25 September 2013, about eight JTF soldiers from Potiskum conducted a house-to-house search operation in Yindiski Ward, Potiskum, Yobe state. The soldiers arrived in a Hilux vehicle and arrested 11 men between the ages of 25 and 55.

One of the men arrested, Mallam Abdullahi (not his real name), told Amnesty International that the soldiers executed his 29-year-old son Umar Abdullahi (not his real name) during the raid. Mallam said he did not know why his son was chosen and killed by the soldiers. He said the soldiers had come to his house and arrested the only men in the house; him and his son. He described how the soldiers shouted at them and pushed them into their vehicle. He saw other men in the vehicle: some of them had blood on their foreheads. He was able to identify two from the street where he lived. He said that they were sitting in the vehicle when one of the soldiers came and started asking questions.

He said: "He [the soldier] asked my son what he does for a living. My son told them he had just finished his college and was getting ready to marry and they should allow him to show them his certificates. One of the soldiers asked him to come out of the vehicle and go into the house to get his certificates. He came down from the vehicle and he was asked to walk back into the house, as soon as he turned his back to enter the house, I saw the soldier raised his gun and shot him in the back. He fell down on his face and there was blood everywhere. I could not believe what I saw. I lost all my senses.

My son was shot and killed right in front of my eyes. Right in front of my house. In the full view of his mothers, his sisters and cousins and the whole family. It was unbelievable. He was just 29 years old.... I would never wipe out that image from my mind. I can still see the bullet tearing the body of my child. I will never forgive those who did that to my family. The face of the soldier who killed my son is very clear to me."¹⁴¹

Mallam said the body was then left outside the compound of his house. Ten other men, including his neighbours and their relatives, were also arrested. The soldiers then drove away with all the people arrested. Mallam said he was later told that his son was buried by the neighbours. He spent one month in military detention and was released without further explanation.

¹³⁹ Amnesty International interview, November 2014.

¹⁴⁰ Amnesty International interview, November 2014.

¹⁴¹ Amnesty International interview, April 2013.