

in detention and released with 31 others on 11 January 2013. Mauzu told Amnesty International that four of the men arrested with him died because they were not given medical treatment. He said that all of the victims died as a result of severe beatings sustained during the arrest or in detention and lack of medical assistance. He said:

“First one, a primary school teacher died as a result of being beaten on the first day. He died after three days in Guantanamo after receiving no medical assistance. Some soldiers had tried to give him first aid, but he had internal bleeding and there was no proper doctor... A 50-year-old barber from our village also died. He had received many machete slashes on the side of his head – his head had subsequently swollen up to the extent that even his eyes did not open. I used to help him and give him food. He was not in a good condition, but for a long time he did not get any medical attention. He was eventually taken to the hospital by the Commandant himself but he died four days later.”

The other two detainees, Mauzo Yakubo said, also died after they were severely beaten on the first day and never recovered, in the absence of medical assistance. The fourth detainee was a 30-year-old mason, who died after about 10 days in detention. Mauzo Yakubo said that the detainees’ pleas for medical help were left unanswered: “Whenever any of these persons was sick or dying, we used to try asking for medical help. The soldiers paid no interest in any of this.”¹⁹⁶

Amnesty International established that on a single day, 19 June 2013, 47 detainees died, apparently from suffocation, in Sector Alpha detention facility.¹⁹⁷ A senior military source, who had direct information about the incident, said that the 47 men had been arrested in various locations across Yobe state. He said that all of them were brought into the detention facility and placed in the same small cell into which they could barely fit, even standing. The detainees were locked in the cell for over 24 hours, and the following day when the soldiers came to the cell, they discovered the dead bodies. Some of the detainees were asked to bring out the rest of the corpses and place them on the ground in the compound. They were later buried by officials from the state Ministry of Environment.¹⁹⁸

Photos taken on the morning the bodies were removed from the cell which were made available to Amnesty International show the dead detainees lying on the ground in the detention centre compound. There are no visible gunshot wounds on the bodies but the corpses look similar to some of the bodies Amnesty International delegates saw in the mortuary in Maiduguri which had come from Giwa military barracks.¹⁹⁹ In July 2013, Amnesty International raised this case with senior officials at Defence Headquarters in Abuja. They initially denied that such deaths happened in their custody, but promised to investigate. Amnesty International has not received any response from their investigation on this specific case.

¹⁹⁶ Amnesty International interview, July 2013.

¹⁹⁷ A list with the names of the detainees is on file with Amnesty International.

¹⁹⁸ Amnesty International interview, July 2013.

¹⁹⁹ The metadata of the photos confirms they were taken on 19 June 2013 at 7:35. Like the bodies from Giwa barracks, they seem to have no gunshot wounds, look emaciated, and are only half dressed. Photos on file with Amnesty International.