



 ↑ Stills taken from a video showing a military operation in Bama local government in 2015. The video shows what appear to be soldiers and members of the Civilian JTF burning houses and properties. © Private

residents to go to the satellite camps.⁴⁹ Thirteen said that they fled pre-emptively because they knew that the military had attacked residents of neighbouring villages and feared such an attack if they remained.⁵⁰

Sixty-two-year-old Ibrahim (not his real name), told researchers how he fled to Bama Hospital camp from Budumri village in Bama LGA after a military operation in February 2016. He said:

“Around nine in the morning, the military arrived. I was on our farm when they came. They set fire to the houses, and opened fire with their guns. They said the people had to come out of the houses. They were searching for Boko Haram and everyone said they were not Boko Haram, so then they killed people and burnt the houses... I could see the houses on fire and hear the gunfire from the farm. After they had left, I came back around 2.30, and at 4 pm we made the burial. We buried 32 people – four were women, three of the women were burnt to death in their homes and one was shot. The others were men. Most of the men were escaping when the soldiers opened fire on them and shot them.”⁵¹

Satellite data confirms that Budumri village was burned down, likely in February 2016.

Thirty-eight-year-old Ama (not her real name), who fled Kalamukdoh village in Bama LGA in late 2015, recounted to Amnesty International how she and her family had suffered under Boko Haram control and were then attacked by the military instead of being rescued. She said:

“When we heard that the soldiers were coming, we were hopeful. We thought, finally! But they didn’t come. Instead, they bombed us from the nearby village for many hours. A lot of people were killed by the soldiers’ bombing [...] My husband’s sister and three of her children were all killed by a bomb. They killed some Boko Haram fighters, but the real ones had already gone.”⁵²

Ama said she fled from her village to Banki camp with her family after the bombing.

A second woman from the same town interviewed separately told researchers she had fled from her home to Banki in late 2015 for similar reasons. She said that Boko Haram had been operating in her town for a number of months before the army attacked their village. She added:

“The army didn’t come to Kalamukdoh. They were bombing from a nearby village. A lot of bombs were dropped on the town. These bombings killed a lot of people. They would always happen around Maghreb [evening] time. It would last for about thirty minutes each day.”⁵³

Thirty-year-old Khadeeja (not her real name) from Bakari village in Bama LGA described how she fled after being attacked by the Nigerian military in late 2015. She said the army arrived in her town and that:

⁴⁹ Amnesty International interviews, June 2016–April 2018. Most of these IDPs were from Kala Balge LGA, they told researchers they had been ordered from their villages, including Kala, Malti, and Makandri, to Rann camp, in or around March 2016.

⁵⁰ Amnesty International interviews, June 2016–April 2018.

⁵¹ Amnesty International interview, July 2016.

⁵² Amnesty International interview, September 2016.

⁵³ Amnesty International interview, August 2016.