

Nigeria: Yobe College Death Toll Rises to 62, Says Amnesty

BY IBRAHIM KABIRU SULE, 1 OCTOBER 2013

The death toll in Sunday's gunmen attack on students of the College of Agriculture, Gujba in Yobe State has risen to 62, Amnesty International said yesterday.

The group also frowned at the escalating number of attacks on schools and students in the north-east, and called on the authorities to take drastic measures of protecting schools.

"Several individuals told Amnesty International the attackers ordered students to assemble and then opened fire on them. One resident of Damaturu said that on Sunday they counted 62 bodies at the Sani Abacha General Hospital mortuary in Damaturu, Yobe state," Amnesty said in a statement yesterday.

It said it will publish a new insight report on Boko Haram's campaign of attacks on schools and students in the North-east on Friday.

Amnesty said also that "between 21 February and 1 March 2012 alone, 10 primary schools were attacked in locations across Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

"Authorities in Nigeria must take urgent measures to protect schools and students in the north-east of the country following a fresh attack by unknown gunmen that left dozens dead," said the Africa Deputy Director at Amnesty International, Lucy Freeman.

The report noted further that children are being denied accessing education a situation Freeman described as "high time for the authorities not only to investigate these deplorable incidents and take those responsible to justice but to take measures to prevent them."

From the beginning of 2013, Amnesty said, attacks are more targeted on teachers and students as they frequently happen when schools are occupied.



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Police

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