

1 Soldier To Die By Hanging For Killing Suspected Terrorist In Borno

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

A SOLDIER, Lance Corporal Hillary Joel, of the Nigerian Army has been sentenced to death by the Army General Court Martial (AGCM), sitting in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, for killing a suspected Boko Haram terrorist, Wowi Lawan, in Damboa town.

Joel was accused of setting ablaze the suspect during a "cordon and search" operation by troops in Damboa Council, leading to his death.

2 The court-martial also sentenced one Private Chima Daniel to 15 years imprisonment for aiding and abetting the murder of 13-years-old Yakubu Isa by torturing him with grind pepper until he died.

Isa was alleged to have stolen a handset belonging to his colleague.

In the same vein, Private Sunday Oguche bagged seven years on two-count charge of unlawful possession of 641 rounds of military bullets and stealing of mobile phone worth N45,000 belonging to a fellow soldier.

Sgt. Samuel Balanga was demoted to the rank of Private for desertion of his duty post at 158 Battalion in Kareto, northern Borno, for 43 days, as well as abandon-

ing a military RPG in his custody during Boko Haram attack.

Corporal Audu Aliyu was demoted to the rank of Private for assaulting three minors- Babale Mustapha, 13, Sani Mustapha, 12, and Yakubu Isa- by flogging them with a tree stick on allegation of stealing a phone belonging to his colleague.

President of the court-martial, Brig-Gen Olusegun Adeniyi, while delivering judgment yesterday in Maiduguri, said the accused were found guilty in all the charges leveled against them.

He added that the Nigerian Army does not tolerate the act of indiscipline and disregard for established rules in the execution of the war against Boko Haram insurgency.

Adeniyi, however, urged military retainers to release Sgt. Samuel Balanga, now demoted to Private, and Corporal Audu Aliyu, also demoted to Private, from detention since the judgment did not dismiss them from the Army.

"These cases are now concluded, subject to the confirmation by the military authority and the court-martial is hereby adjourned to a later date that will be communicated to parties," Adeniyi said.

Explosives Kill Two Teenagers,