

# Boko Haram kills 60 persons in Rann, says Amnesty Intl

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Boko Haram (File photo)

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Boko Haram insurgents have killed at least 60 persons in an attack on Rann, Borno State, between Monday and Tuesday.

Amnesty International which disclosed this in a statement on Friday, said satellite imagery showed mass burning of structures used by the displaced people.

The statement by AI Nigeria Director, Osai Ojigho said, “Eleven bodies were found within Rann town, and 49 were found outside while about 50 people were still missing.”

It quoted one of 10 civilian joint task force members who travelled to Rann to bury the dead as saying the bodies found outside the town all had gunshot wounds.

“This attack on civilians who have already been displaced by the bloody conflict may amount to possible war crime, and those responsible must be brought to justice,” the human rights group

stated.

Ojigho noted that the death toll made it the deadliest attack by Boko Haram on Rann, after the January 2017 air strike by the Nigeria Air Force on an internally displaced persons camp in the town in which at least 112 were killed.

She said environmental sensors detected fires in and around Rann on Monday and Tuesday, indicating the jihadists returned after the troops pulled out.

According to her, analysis of satellite images indicated the two attacks had left most of the town heavily damaged or destroyed and well over 100 structures had been burned down.

Rann, which is some 175 kilometres from Maiduguri, has now been hit four times since March last year.

In the first attack, three aid workers were killed while three others were kidnapped. Two of the three were later executed. The second attack happened in early December.

On January 14, fighters loyal to the Boko Haram faction led by Abubakar Shekau attacked a military position.

Some 9,000 people fled across the border into Cameroon but were sent back, as troops from Nigeria's eastern neighbour were deployed to Rann as reinforcements.

*AFP* reported that the remaining Nigerian soldiers also withdrew because they were not enough to fight off Boko Haram if they came in greater numbers.

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