



YOU ARE AT: Home » Breaking News » Boko Haram kill 15 near Chibok



## Boko Haram kill 15 near Chibok

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BY OUR REPORTER ON DECEMBER 30, 2014

BREAKING NEWS, TRENDING

Suspected Islamist militants opened fire in a remote town in northeast Nigeria, killing at least 15 people, witnesses and a security source said.

The attack on Monday night targeted Kautikari, near the Cameroon border, just 10 kilometres (6 miles) from the village of Chibok, where more than 200 schoolgirls were abducted in April. They remain captives.

"The were about twenty, well-armed. They came in four-wheel drive vehicles and some motorcycles. Initially, I thought they were soldiers," survivor Jonah Umaru said by telephone.

"The man running behind me was gunned down as I was fleeing. Afterwards, there were 15 people lying dead in the streets."

Suspected Boko Haram gunmen kidnapped 172 women and children and killed 35 other people this month near the same area.

Violence by Boko Haram, which is fighting to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria, has killed 10,340 people so far this year, according to a count by the Council on Foreign Relations last month.

The five-year-old insurgency has also displaced more than a million people from the remote northeast. It is considered the gravest threat to the stability of Africa's biggest economy and top oil producer — and its neighbours.

Underscoring the regional threat posed by the group, Cameroon's army said it had killed at least 41 Boko Haram militants as it fought off a wave of attacks along its border with Nigeria over the weekend.

Instability in the northeast is likely to undermine efforts to hold Nigeria's presidential and other elections across the region in February.

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