

29 children, 211 others die in military cells in Nigeria – Amnesty

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• Says military killed 177 pro-Biafra agitators in 2016

By Adetutu Folasade-Koyi

Amnesty International (AI) has reported that a total of 240 people, including children and babies, died in military cells in Maiduguri, Borno State in 2016.

Also, it said a military clampdown on agitators for Biafra resulted in 177 deaths in the South-east last year.

In its 2016/17 report released yesterday, the group said mass arrests of people fleeing Boko Haram led to overcrowding in military detention facilities.

“The report said: “At the military detention facility at Giwa barracks, Maiduguri, cells were overcrowded. Diseases, dehydration and starvation was rife. At least, 240 detainees died during the year.

“Bodies were secretly buried in Maiduguri’s cemetery by the Borno State Environmental Protection Agency staff. Among the dead were, at least, 29 children and babies, aged between newborn and five years.”