



## Nigeria: Britain, Italy, Greece Confirm Killing of Foreign Hostages

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As security agencies intensified the manhunt for members of a terrorist group Ansaru, an offshoot of Boko Haram, that claimed to have killed the seven hostages in its custody, Britain, Greece and Italy confirmed Sunday the death of their citizens who were among the abducted construction workers.

The terror group, which abducted the seven foreign construction workers from the Setraco Construction Company camp at Jama'are, Bauchi State, on February 16, said on Saturday that it had killed them.

The seven hostages from Britain, Greece, Italy and Lebanon were seized in a raid from a construction site belonging to Setraco. The raid also resulted in the death of a guard.

Ansaru said the hostages were killed because of a rescue attempt by British and Nigerian forces. But British officials said they were not aware of any such attempt.

The message from Ansaru included photographs purporting to show a gunman standing over at least one body, although these could not be verified.

Given the confusion arising from Ansaru's claim, as there was no independent confirmation of the killing, the foreign governments launched investigations to ascertain the veracity of Ansaru's claim.

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. William Hague, confirmed what he said was the likely murder of the British national alongside six other foreigners by the Islamic militants.

He also offered Britain's support to Nigeria to apprehend those behind the dastardly murder and to combat terrorism in Nigeria and the region.

According to a statement by the Political and Press Secretary of the British High Commission in Abuja, Mr. Hooman Nouruzi, the foreign secretary expressed condolences to the families of all the hostages.



Photo: Premium Times

Unknown gunmen

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