

## NEWS

# Weeks after Killing Aid Workers, ISWAP Executes 11 Captives

Kingsley Nwezeh in Abuja

A conflict journalist renowned for his monitoring of terrorists activities in North-east, Ahmad Salkida, said yesterday that the Islamic State for West African Province (ISWAP) have executed

11 captives, mostly Christians.

Salkida said in his website, salkida.com, that ISWAP said the captives were executed "as a revenge for the killings of our leaders, including Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and Abul-Hasan Al-Muhajir in Iraq and Syria."

But conflict journalists and researchers, including Jacob Zenn, said "it is possible IS ordered ISWAP to kill them," as it had intervened in other hostage situations.

He, however, debunked claims by the terrorist group that all victims are Christians.

"Not all 11 of the victims are Christians as claimed by

the group, there were three Muslims and 10 Christians that appeared in the captured video on December 17," Salkida said in a post on his website.

"The terrorist group claimed that they spared the lives of two persons that appeared in the earlier video, but did not give their names.

"However, a careful

assessment of the video revealed that Suwaiba Kashimu from Nasarawa State, and one other male, were apparently not among those killed on Christmas," Salkida wrote.

"The decision to execute the captives was rather swift, abrupt and shocking. ISWAP had reportedly opened a window of negotiations ostensibly

to exchange the freedom of the captives with those of its members in government custody but the Nigerian government failed to take the offer."

The killing comes few hours after Boko Haram jihadists killed seven people on Christmas Eve in a raid on a Christian village near the town of Chibok in northeast Nigeria's Borno state.

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