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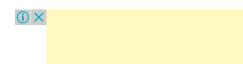
By Ndahi Marama

MAIDUGURI—The Nigerian Army has court–martialed two soldiers for manslaughter and desertion, while fighting *Boko Haram* insurgency and terrorism under *Operation Lafiya Dole* in the North–East of the country.

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The soldiers, Lance <u>Corporal</u> Hassan Adamu and Private Chigozie Egbe, were sentenced after they were charged on counts one and two for alleged manslaughter in Maiduguri on December 23, 2015, and deserting the Nigerian

Army for 272 days, before *Boko Haram* attacked and captured Gwoza on August 8, 2014.

Passing the judgement, yesterday, at the 7 Division Garrison of Nigeria Army, the Court–Martial President, Brig–General Olusegun Adeniyi, said: "Having found you guilty of the charges against you and having listened to your presentations for your service records and your touching claims in investigations, Dozie is sentenced for 14 months imprisonment, while the second charge against miscellaneous offences has been <u>dismissed</u> by this court."

Lance Corporal Adamu, who was found guilty of manslaughter in Maiduguri on Ahmadu Bello Way on December 23, 2015, was also sentenced for seven years imprisonment.

Adeniyi however, noted: "We have also looked at the various punishments provided by both Section 50 (4) paragraph eight of Armed Forces Act, cap. A20 Laws of the Federation; as well as Section 118 (1) of Armed Forces Act. chapter A20 Laws of the Federation.

"This court has also considered the need to ensure the maintenance of <u>discipline</u>, especially as our Counter-Terrorism and Insurgency war fighting continues. This court hereby sentenced you to seven years based on the evidence of killing Umar Anka.

He said the sentencing of this <u>Court Martial</u>; is however subject to confirmation by confirming authority as provided by Section 141 (2) and Section 152 (1b) of the Armed Forces Act.

He announced that these trials of two soldiers, in the cases of manslaughter and dissertation, are concluded.