

**Subject** Burnt Church, Abducted Students,  
the Rampage Continues

**From** Atrocities in Nigeria  
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# ATROCITIES IN NIGERIA NEWSLETTER

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In this week's newsletter, we bring you the story of an attack on a local church and students' abduction by Fulani militias, amidst a gloomy report by Amnesty International on the atrocities going on in Northern Nigeria.

You can read all past editions of the weekly newsletters: [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

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# ATROCITIES IN NIGERIA

August 19 – 24, 2020

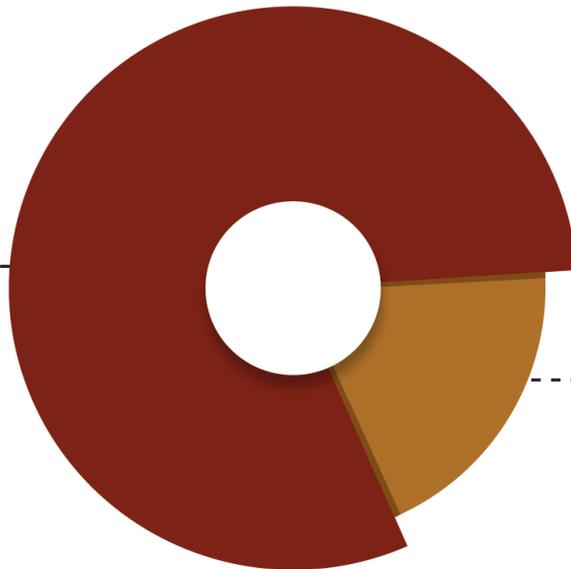


## PRIMARY ACTORS

Fulani militias have continued their incessant attacks on innocent villagers, following repeated patterns. This is despite international outrage over the killings. In recent weeks, Boko Haram insurgents have also increased their spate of attacks on civilians.

**75%**

**FULANI  
MILITIA**



**15%**

**INSURGENTS**



## ATROCITIES



**KASTINA**

**2 Abducted**



**KADUNA**

**- Abducted**



**TARABA**

**2 Killed**



 **BAYELSA**  
**7 killed**



**5 killed**

Our field researchers are working round the clock to capture accurate and verified data on the daily atrocities been perpetrated by religious extremists, local militias and insurgents.

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**10 KILLED**

**4 ABDUCTED**

*August 19 – 24, 2020*

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**Weekly Stories Update**

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## **Church Attacked.**

### **Fulani Militia Burns Church, Abducts Students**

Some young students and their female teacher who had gathered at a school, Prince Academy School, to write the Junior School Certificate Examination in Damba-Kasanya village in Chikun local government area of Kaduna state, northwest Nigeria, were attacked and abducted by suspected Fulani militia on August 24, 2020.

The rural school, about 30 kilometers east of Kaduna city, was attacked around 7: 30 am when the students were seated for the exams. The gunmen rode into the village on motorcycles, shooting sporadically and abducted seven students, a female teacher, and some residents of the village.

They killed a young man, Benjamin Auta whose house is close to the school and also burnt down the community's Baptist Church. The villagers, however, pursued them into the bush and rescued some students, but the abductors escaped with four including the female teacher.

They include Ezra Bako, 17; Miss Miracle Saitu Danjuma, 15; Miss Favour Danjuma, 10; Miss Happiness Odoji, 16; Miss Christiana Madugu, the teacher, 29.

The Federal Government had recently opened up schools after the COVID-19 pandemic so that graduating students could write their final exams. Students in

Kaduna state had joined their counterparts in other states to write the exams.

Villages in Chikun and Birnin Gwari local governments in Kaduna state have come under repeated attacks from heavily-armed Fulani Militia for years. They have sacked and drove away people from about 20 villages. Most of the displaced are now staying in various IDP camps in Chikun and Birnin Gwari.



## **Insurgency.**

### **Boko Haram Recruiting More fighters from IDP camps**

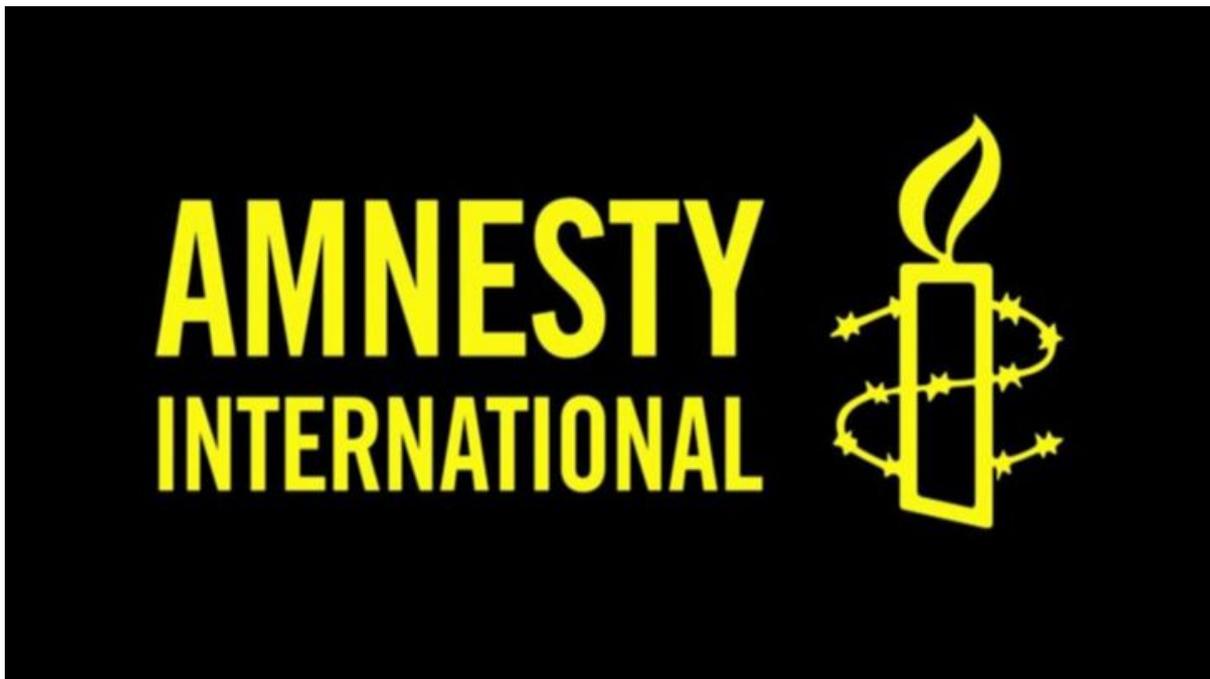
The Governor of Borno State, northeast Nigeria which has been battling Boko Haram insurgents since 2009 has warned that the dreaded insurgents are now recruiting fresh members from the various internally Displaced Peoples Camps spread across the state.

Mr. Babagana Zulum, who escaped a Boko Haram attack on his convoy on 29 July while on his way to share food to the IDPs in Mungono and Baga towns, said the sect is working on the people to join them.

“This is frightening. If the IDPs living in camps could not get what they are looking for, especially the opportunity to go back to their various towns and return to the farm, they may be forced to join the Boko Haram sect.” Zulum who spoke in an interview with the Hausa Service of the BBC, said, the IDPs are

tired, and bored with staying in the camps because they were not getting what they wanted. “It is important that they go back to their various towns because no government can continue to be feeding them continuously,” he said.

The Governor who said that, so far, his government has been able to return hitherto displaced persons to Mafa and Kukawa, while plans were on to return people to Kawuri, expressed a hope that the military will intensify efforts and make it possible for IDPs to return to Baga, Marte, Malam Fatori and Guzamala.



### **Amnesty International Report.**

**1,126 killed, 380 abducted in 7 northern states of Nigeria.**

Amnesty International, on Sunday, August 23, 2020, claimed at least 1,126 rural dwellers in seven northern states of Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, and Zamfara, have lost their lives to rampaging insecurity in the zone since the beginning of 2020.

In a statement highlighting its recent findings, about 380 villagers were also reportedly abducted for ransom within the months under review, with victims' relatives reportedly selling off property to pay demanded ransom. Abductees whose ransom couldn't be paid met an untimely death, the new report claimed.

Insecurity is worsening in the North and AI said it is because of the Nigerian

authorities leaving the backstreet communities poorly policed.

Country Director of AI in Nigeria, Osai Ojigho, says: “Terrifying attacks on rural communities in the north of Nigeria have been going on for years. The ongoing failure of security forces to take sufficient steps to protect villagers from these predictable attacks is utterly shameful.

“In addition to the security forces’ failure to heed warnings or respond in time to save lives, the fact that they have brought no perpetrators to justice leaves rural communities feeling exposed. The President claims he has repeatedly tasked security agencies to end the killing so that Nigerians can go to bed with their eyes closed, but nothing has changed.”

While highlighting the attacks, the organization said it interviewed civilians in Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba, and Zamfara states, adding, “Many of those interviewed described how security forces often arrive hours after attacks have ended, even when officers have been given information about impending attacks.

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