

Nigeria's Ansaru Islamist insurgents

The little-known group that killed seven hostages is believed to be an al-Qaeda-linked offshoot of the Boko Haram group active in northern Nigeria – itself responsible for over 1,500 deaths since 2009

ANSARU ISLAMISTS

Full name: ***Jama'atu Ansarul Muslimina Fi Biladis-Sudan***
(Vanguard for the Protection of Muslims in Black Africa)

Leader: ***Abu Ussamata al-Ansary***

Aligned with al-Qaeda, fighters train together in Niger

Split from Boko Haram over indiscriminate deaths of Muslims in bomb attacks

Attempting to involve foreign governments in domestic conflict

Bernin Kebbi, May 2011:

Two construction workers, one British, one Italian, kidnapped. Both executed during failed British rescue mission

Rimi, Dec 2012:

French national kidnapped from well-guarded compound

Jama'are, Feb 19, 2013:

Seven construction workers, four Lebanese and one each from Italy, UK and Greece, seized from housing compound.

Mar 9: All executed after fears of rescue attempt

