

## ***Nigeria Police News***

10 December 2009 ([This Day, Nigeria](#))

Amnesty International yesterday accused the Nigerian Police of being responsible for hundreds of extra-judicial executions, other unlawful killings and enforced disappearances every year. It also said the majority of the killings go uninvestigated and the police officers responsible go unpunished. Amnesty International alleged that "Police don't only kill people by shooting them; they also torture them to death, often while they are in detention." The global group said one of the main problems is Nigeria Police Force Order 237 under which police officers are allowed to shoot suspects and detainees who attempt to escape or avoid arrest - whether or not they pose a threat to life. It called on the Federal Government to repeal the said Order 237 and publicly announce that the use of lethal force is only allowed when strictly unavoidable to protect life. The report, which documented 39 cases of executions and enforced disappearances over a survey period of three years (from July 2007 to June 2009), also revealed that in June 2009, Amnesty visited the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) detention centre in Abuja, which is located in a disused abattoir outside the city. In a report backed with pictures of victims, graphs and tables of killings, the group disclosed that suspects are held in a vast warehouse previously used for slaughtering cattle. "Chains are still hanging from the ceiling. When Amnesty International delegates visited the building, about 15 people were held in cells. Amnesty International delegates counted at least 30 empty bullet cases scattered on the ground," it said. The report was based on interviews and research carried out during the three-year survey period.