

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

NEWS FLASH

May 4, 2014
Index: ASA 20/016/2014

Killings in Assam shameful, authorities must protect rights of all communities

The killing of at least 27 civilians, allegedly by armed groups, in Assam's Kokrajhar and Baksa districts is condemnable and shows contempt for human lives.

The first incident of shooting took place late in a village in Baksa on Thursday evening, and two other shootings occurred in Kokrajhar and Baksa over the following day, with bodies continuing to be found on Saturday morning. All the victims were from Muslim families .

The Assam state government and police allege that the killings were perpetrated by an armed group, the Songbijit faction of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB). The armed group has denied responsibility .

The region has witnessed several incidents of violence in the past. In July 2012, clashes broke out between Bodo and Muslim communities, killing over 75 people and displacing thousands from their homes.

It is the fundamental right of people of every person to live free from violence and discrimination. Authorities in Assam must take action to protect the rights of all communities and bring those responsible for the attacks to justice.
