

News

March 15, 2026 by [Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi](#)

Suspected herdsmen kill 15 in Benue community



Over 15 people have been killed in an attack by suspected armed herdsmen in the Ojatele community in the Apa Local Government Area of **Benue State**.

The Nation learnt that the attack occurred on Friday afternoon and left many community members with various degrees of injuries, while several others have gone missing.

A member of the community, Peter Oche, told The Nation that the attackers arrived with a large number of cattle and opened fire on residents who were returning from their cashew farming.

Peter Oche said "It was an unprovoked attack, the armed herdsmen came with large cows, and were grazing unhindered, but when they saw some women and children who went to their cashew farms going back home, they opened gunfire on them, killed some persons, and others sustained various degrees of injuries."

"The number of dead victims and those injured would be more than the figure we have seen, because most people ran away."

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"So far, we have recovered about 15 corpses and 11 others who were injured."

We have evacuated the injured ones to the hospital in Ugbokpo, headquarters of Apa Local Government Area," the source explained.

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Another member who identified himself as James Agbo confirmed the incident and said “It was herdsmen that attacked the community this afternoon and killed over 15 persons.”

Agbo described the incident as unprovoked and unwarranted. “ Our community is now completely deserted. We are calling on the government to come to our rescue.

There is no security in the whole area. These are innocent people who went to look for their daily bread who were killed unjustifiably,” he said.

When contacted on the phone, Apa Local Government Chairman, Mr Adams Ada Ochege, confirmed the incident, saying that he was yet to get a full report of the attack.

“Yes, there was an attack on the Ojatele community in Apa Local Government, but I’m not in the local government area. I’m away for an official journey.”

“However, my attention has been drawn to the incident. You can call me by tomorrow evening, then I can have enough information. So, for now, I can’t speak further, thanks,” he said.

Efforts to get a reaction from the Benue State Command Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Udeme Edet, proved abortive as she could not respond to text messages or calls.

