

Suspected herders kill five in Benue community

Femi Akinyemi January 13, 2026



Suspected herders have reportedly killed five people, including a former councillor in a Tuesday morning raid of Otobi-Akpa community in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State.

Locals told Tribune Online that the attackers looted some shops in the community as they killed five people, including a woman.

Some of the victims of the attack include Hon Ochi Ugbabe, former councillor and house of assembly candidate in 2019, Achibi Onah, Eje Eba and Sunday Iruja and one other.

Locals said that the attackers, who were identified as herdsmen, invaded Otobi Akpa community in Otukpo LGA at about 1.30 am on Tuesday.

Suspected armed herders kill two security operatives in Benue

They were reported to have earlier on Sunday night stormed the village and attempted to kidnap people at Ekwu-Ora'Odaba, but was foiled by the community volunteers guard commander, Ocheme Jackson and his team.

The local who did not want his name mentioned said, "Following Sunday's Kidnap attempt, community volunteers guard members with the support of youths in the area, kept patrol and surveillance team across the community up until 12.00 am on Tuesday morning before retiring to rest.

"When the surveillance team from the railway crossing into Ijami part of Otobi pulled back to rest, at about 1.30 am, the gunmen suspected to be herdsmen, stormed the community and started shooting.

"They killed five persons in the process and looted foodstuffs and other valuables."

One of the community leaders in Otobi, John Anyebe, who confirmed the attack, said the attackers came through the railway station bridge from the Ijami part of Otobi and headed to where the victims were sitting, not far from the transformer junction.

He said, " Yes, the attack was carried out by suspected herdsmen who have been terrorising our community, shooting one person close to the water board before heading to where Honourable Igbabe Ochi and four others were seated and opened fire on them, looting the stores around for food and other valuables."

Also, the lawmaker representing the area (Otukpo/Akpa) at the state assembly, Kennedy Angbo, who confirmed the incident, decried the incessant attacks on his constituency.

Angbo recalled the Sunday attack on passengers on a Benue links bus around Otukpo, where three persons were shot and hospitalised.

He added, "You can imagine that early this morning, five of my people have been killed again at the Otobi community of the Akpa district.

The Special Adviser on Internal Security, Joseph Har, said that he had received a report of the incident from the Commander of the Community Protection Guard in the area.

Part of the report read, "Suspected kidnappers believed to be in search of food for their victims attacked a provision shop at Otobi-Akpa community around 1.30 am.

"Otobi Akpa is in Otukpo LGA. Four people were killed at the shop. They looted the shop and moved into the nearby forest when the locals responded.

"The police and the Civil Protection Guards were immediately deployed to the community to prevent further attack. Those killed were identified to be Hon Ochi Ugbabe, Achibi Onah, Eje Eba and Sunday Iruja."

The report added that four persons were recently kidnapped and are yet to be released.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Udeme Edet, confirmed the incident, saying, "sadly, an incident occurred earlier today at Otobi-Akpa. Tragically, four individuals have lost their lives.

"Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with the family and loved ones affected by this incident.

"Investigation is in progress, and efforts are being made to arrest the perpetrators to face justice."

It will be recalled that the Otobi-Akpa community was attacked around April 15, 2025, by the suspected herders who murdered 13 people.