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from a nearby forest.

"The bandits came from the Kainji National Park, and attacked our security men. We lost four soldiers. Some others were injured," Alhaji Zikki said.

The village head added that the operatives resisted the attack, despite its intensity.

"There were heavy gunshots everywhere. It was intense, but the security men tried," he said.

He also dismissed claims that the attackers issued prior threats to the community, insisting there were no civilian casualties.

2 In another development, five persons were feared killed in a renewed attack on Tse Ameen community in Mbapa Council Ward, in Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State, by suspected

herdsmen.

A source who craved anonymity told newsmen in a phone interview, on Monday that some suspected herders invaded the community on Saturday night, and killed five persons.

He added that the corpses were recovered on Sunday, while many others were still missing.

The source said: "Five corpses, which included three males and two females, were recovered yesterday [Sunday].

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Udeme Edet, confirmed the killings to newsmen in a phone interview, on Monday.

She said: "The incident is confirmed; four bodies were recovered."