

Two worshippers killed in Benue community attack

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File photo: Gunmen

| By John Charles

Two people were reportedly killed in renewed attacks on communities in Apa Local Government Area, Benue State, on Sunday. The violence occurred in Edikwu G'Icho, Ole-G'ijamu, and Ukpogo when suspected armed herders reportedly invaded the communities.

Residents, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a pastor returning from church was among those killed during the ambush.

They also alleged that two women were raped during the attacks and were rushed to a hospital, where they are currently receiving treatment.

It was gathered that youths in Oiji mobilised quickly and successfully repelled the attackers, preventing further casualties.

Confirming the attacks, the Chairman of Apa LGA, Adams Ocheiga, said the victims were ambushed and killed on Sunday at Edikwu Ward 11.

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He added, “Two people were ambushed and killed at Edikwu Ward 11 yesterday, while Oiji was attacked this morning but repelled immediately by vigilant youths.”

Attempts to reach the spokesperson of the Benue State Police Command, DSP Udeme Edet, for comment were unsuccessful, as calls to her cellphone rang out and text messages were not returned at the time of filing this report.

Some communities in Benue State have become epicentres of attacks by suspected armed herders, killing and maiming innocent citizens.

Within the past few weeks, several people have been killed by suspected herders in Kwande, Otukpo, Ohinmini, Logo, Guma and, presently, the Apa local government area.