

Benue community in fear as herders kill, behead resident

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File photo: Map of Benue State

By John Charles

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Suspected armed herders were reported to have killed a patent medicine seller, identified as Ojoma Emie, in Ikobi, Apa Local Government Area of Benue State.

According to a local source, the suspected killers of the patent medicine seller were reported to have severed his head and taken it away.

The incident, according to a local source, who simply identified himself as Sam, occurred on Monday.

Sam told our correspondent in a telephone interview on Monday that the deceased, who had gone to the local government headquarters, Ugbokpo, was returning to his base at Ikobi when he was attacked.

“What we gathered was that the deceased, who was a patent medicine seller, had gone to Ugbokpo to buy medicine and stock his shop.

“Unfortunately, as he was returning to his community at Ikobi, he was ambushed on a motorcycle at Ugbobi Junction, killed, and the assailants cut off his head and went away with it,” Sam said.

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He further stated that the exact spot where the incident happened had been notorious for ambushes of travellers.

Confirming the incident, the chairman of the local government, Adams Ochege, said that the deceased was on his way to Ikobi when he was ambushed, killed, and beheaded.

Ochege said, “He was on his way from Ikobi to Ugbokpo when the killers ambushed him and beheaded him on the way.”

Meanwhile, the spokesperson for the State Command, DSP Udeme Edet, said she had yet to receive the report.

Apa LGA is one of the councils in Benue State that has continued to witness killings of innocent people by suspected armed herders.

At least four people returning from a burial were killed in April by suspected armed herdsmen at Ankpali village in the Edikwu district of the same LGA.