

2 fishermen killed in Benue ambush by armed herders



By Peter Duru

Makurdi —Two fishermen have been reportedly killed in an ambush by armed herdsmen in Obishu community of Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State.

A source in the area disclosed that the victims were waylaid by the killer herdsmen late Monday while at their mud fishing pond to harvest their fish.

The attack came less than 24 hours after a similar incident claimed two lives in neighbouring Apa Local Government Area of the state.

The source disclosed that Obishu community had in recent time been infiltrated by criminal elements who engage in cattle rustling.

According to him, “It is unfortunate that the attacked fishermen were going about their business when the armed herdsmen waylaid them.

“Many people believe that the attack may not be unconnected to the issue of cattle rustling in that part of the council, which is the handiwork of criminals and not these innocent fishermen, who were going about their legitimate business of fishing.

“They attacked the fishermen late Monday, but because people fled when they heard the gunshots, nobody summoned the courage to visit the scene of the attack, people were rather running away from their homes.

“Today (yesterday) about 10a.m., the Local Government Chairman led soldiers to the area and recovered the two corpses of the victims which were mutilated.

“It is unfortunate that the innocent farmers were killed for what they knew nothing about,” he said.

According to him, “It is an open secret that there was complaints of about 49 cows that were rustled over time by these criminals and the issue was taken up which led to the arrest of some of the suspects in that general area. It is unfortunate that innocent people are being killed. And I also wonder if a cattle is worth the life of a human being.

“Though the Chairman and his team are doing their best but we demand that all the criminals behind cattle rustling in Agatu be arrested and brought to justice to end these unending attacks on innocent people,” he added.

Contacted, the Chairman of Agatu LGA, Mr. Melvin Ekeh who confirmed the attack explained that the fishermen were waylaid by the armed herdsmen.

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He said, “the armed herdsmen laid ambush and killed the two victims. Soldiers in Agatu were very The Police Public Relations Officer, Udeme Edet could not be reached at press time.