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# 4 KILLED IN FRESH HERDERS/TIV CRISIS

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Four people including a Tiv man and three cattle breeders were reported killed in a fresh clash between herdsmen and natives at Apir in Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State over the weekend.

Daily Trust gathered that some Tiv youths Friday protested the killing of one native of the area by suspected Fulani herdsmen and blocked the busy Makurdi-Otukpo highway, causing a serious traffic hold-up. The angry youths who said the federal government must urgently do something to end the incessant killing of their people said some suspected herders Thursday killed a Tiv man, Tarshar Namakar.

Spokesman of the protesters, Joseph Agera decried the continued killing of his Tiv people by the herders and called on the federal government to stop it. Agera said the killers made away with 57 cows belonging to one Engr. Samuel Utoor who is the SURE-P coordinator in the state.

Utoor himself told journalists that the deceased was his relation who was looking after the cows in the field before the herdsmen killed him. However, the secretary of the cattle breeders in the state, Garus Gololo, said youths during the protest killed a Fulani family who were returning from Otukpo to Makurdi.

The Special Assistant to the Benue governor on Fulani Matters, Shettima Mohammed, told our correspondent that a herder aged 60 along with his two sons aged between 20 and 22 years were murdered by the Tiv youths who went wild on Friday. Mohammed who said the bodies of the victims had been buried on Saturday after an autopsy report obtained from the teaching hospital pleaded with relevant authorities to wade into matter for peace to prevail among the warring parties.

Police spokesman Daniel Ezeala said the command was only aware of the killing of the Tiv man which led to the protest by the youths. Ezeala added that enough police men had been deployed to dismantle the roadblock and to protect lives and property.

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