

Ebonyi/Benue border crisis claims 12 lives including children

By Nabob Ogbonna, Abakiliki | Published Date Mar 12, 2020 2:39 AM



No fewer than 12 persons have been killed including pupils of Ndiagu Orie, Umugudu-Akpu Ngbo community in Ohaukwu local government area of Ebonyi state by suspected gunmen from Benue state.

Daily Trust gathered that five persons among whom was an aged woman and four pupils were beheaded by the gunmen who arrived the community in military uniforms, while properties worth millions of naira were destroyed and over 200 domestic animals including goats were killed.

A statement issued by the State Police Command signed by the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Awosola Awotinde confirmed the attack.

Awosola however claimed that 7 persons lost their lives during the sudden raid by the unknown gunmen and denied allegations that the attack was carried out by herdsmen.

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“We want to use this opportunity to let the public know that the attack, which took place on Tuesday at Ndiagu Orie, Umugudu-Akpu Ngbo community in Ohaukwu local government area of Ebonyi state was not carried out by herdsmen.

“It is a border crisis between the people of Agila Community in Ado local government area of Benue state and their neighbouring community, Ngbo in Ebonyi state,” he said.

When contacted Mr. Eugene Ebenyi, a Public Relations Officer attached to the Minister of Information and State Orientation said that his mother was among those murdered and beheaded in the attack.

“This is the second loss since the renewed border crisis started. Last year, I lost my brother and now it is my mother”, he said.

Also, affected were a former Chairman of the area, Hon. Cyril Obazi who had his residential building destroyed, while Mrs. Pauline Nwaneri of the State-owned Broadcasting Corporation (EBBC), lost four members of her family.

The Chairman of Ohaukwu Local Government Area, Barr. Clement Odah, during a security/stakeholders meeting on Wednesday evening, blamed the incident on political rancour among the communities.

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