

...7 killed, 3 abducted in fresh Benue attack

From Hope Abah, Makurdi

Seven people were killed on Thursday night when armed invaders launched a fresh attack on Agbo Vengav Udam, a community in Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State.

Our correspondent reports that the latest killings bring the total number of people killed in Benue State by armed attacks this month to 113 within just 25 days.

Witnesses said the assailants stormed the community around 7pm, firing indiscriminately and causing panic among residents.

"They came through a border village in Otukpo and entered Agbo while shooting sporadically. Seven people were killed instantly, and they abducted three others," a resident of the area told our correspondent.

Another witness who asked not to be identified confirmed that an infant was among those killed while the child's mother was among the abducted.

The witness added that five of the bodies had been deposited at a morgue in Naka, while the families of the remaining two victims chose to bury their loved ones immediately.

Residents said the attack had forced many people to flee the community out of fear of further violence.

The chairman of Gwer West Local Government, Victor Ormin, on Friday confirmed the incident to journalists.

Ormin, who lamented that the killings occurred shortly after the hijack of commercial vehicles and abduction of passengers, decried the activities of suspected armed herders in the area.

The council boss said, "It is true that people were killed at Agbo Vengav Udam village within the local government area on Thursday night.

"Two people who were critically injured during the attack are currently receiving treatment at Naka hospital. The situation is becoming unbearable considering the level of destruction these armed herders are causing in the local government and the state as a whole."

Attempts to contact the police public relations officer (PPRO) for the Benue State command, CSP Catherine Anene, were not successful as calls and messages to her phone went unanswered.

Recall that on same Thursday, unidentified gunmen hijacked two commercial vehicles in the affected local government area and abducting 19 passengers.

113 killed in Benue attacks in April

There has been a resurgence of attacks across Benue State with at least 113 people killed in April alone within seven local government areas, according to available reports as at Friday morning, April 25, 2025.

Residents, however, say the actual figure may be higher due to unreported cases in remote communities.

Our correspondent reports that a breakdown of the timeline of attacks across the state shows the scale of the carnage:

As at Tuesday, April 22, the Sankera axis recorded the highest number of fatalities, with a staggering 83 people killed in various attacks across the three local government (Kastina-Ala, Logo and Ukum) areas in five days after they were first attacked on Thursday, April 17.

On Tuesday, April 15 in Otukpo Local Government Area, gunmen attacked Otobi-Akpa community, leaving 13 bodies recovered. Also, a separate attack on a passenger bus on Friday, April 4 resulted in the death of three people, bringing the total number of deaths in Otukpo to 16.

Also, on Wednesday, April 9 in Gwer East, an assault on Mbasombo community claimed the lives of three people.

On April 9 and 24, Gwer West was hit twice within the month. The first attack on April 9 claimed two lives while a second one on Thursday, April 24, left seven people dead, totaling nine deaths in the local government area.

In Guma Local Government Area, two people were killed on Tuesday, April 22.