

Seven Feared Killed In Fresh Benue Violence

From Simeon Nwakaudu, Makurdi

DESPITE the deployment of soldiers and mobile policemen to the hinterland of Gwer West local council, some suspected herdsmen continued armed attacks on farming communities in the area, killing about seven persons in early morning raids yesterday.

The herdsmen, who invaded Tyotegh ward in Gwer West Council of Benue State since last Monday, have been staging constant nocturnal attacks

on farming villages in the area, where they have razed down more 100 homesteads and displaced over 20,000 villagers residing in 10 villages in the council.

Death toll in the conflict has risen to about 28 persons, with more than 300 persons critically injured, many with bullet wounds. Several women and girls in the area have also been allegedly raped by the invading bandits who over-powered the communities and con-

founded security agencies with their coordinated pattern of attack and retreat.

Thousands of farmers, women and children dislodged by the invasion in the area have been in camps in Naka and Kula towns. Some have been camped at Agagbe town.

A victim of the attack, Orshi Orduen, who is presently taking refuge at the Primary school camp in Naka, said that he saw several corpses before

he fled the area, with some members of his family.

He said that the herdsmen also raped several women and girls on the fateful day. He noted that they were fully kitted in military fatigue and wore bulletproof vests for protection.

However, the Benue State Governor, Gabriel Suswam met with Fulani leaders in Makurdi on Thursday, pleading with them to prevail on the attackers to halt their action.

Police Demolish Kidnappers Torture House

From Charles Ogugbuaja, Owerri

TO completely wipe out their nefarious activities, the Imo State Police Command had demolished the den where kidnappers kept their victims in captivity.

The place owned by one Nwama of Umunegbele, Aboh na Umuopara, Dim na-nume, Isu Nwangele council, was demolished by police men under the watchful eyes of security chiefs in Imo state, including the Commander, 34 Field Artillery Brigade, Obinze and the chairman of the council.

According to a statement

