

Delta community alleges killing of six persons, rape by herdsmen

From Owen Akenzue, Asaba

THE people of Uwheru Community in Ughelli North Local Council of Delta State have alleged that Fulani herdsmen grazing cattle in the area have killed six of their kinsmen in the past one week.

They alleged that the herdsmen who started operating in the area, had turned Uwheru, Ohoro and Agadama communities into a battle field where helpless residents are killed and their women are wantonly raped.

They lamented that in most cases, they were taken hostage by the herdsmen.

President-General of Uwheru Clan, Chief Osarivi Muriaga Uiso, who spoke with journalists in Asaba yesterday, said a policeman who went to rescue the people allegedly held hostage by the herdsmen was also killed.

He called on the state and Federal Government to come to their aid as some residents of the area have fled to neighbouring Bayelsa State for fear of the unknown.

He pointed out that Uwheru people who have survived the herdsmen's attacks regretted the death of the police officer who the herdsmen allegedly shot in the chest.

He further alleged that several housewives from Uwheru, Ohoro and Agadama communities have been raped by the herdsmen who in most cases inflict injuries on them after defiling them.

The Area Commander, Ughelli Police, Mr. Usman Ndanbabo, who led the policemen to rescue the people dur-

ing a recent attack on them by the herdsmen, was also injured. The gun-totting herdsmen shot sporadically into the air with their superior weapons before they were overpowered and some of them escaped into the bush. Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Mr. Andrew Aniamaka, confirmed that the officer who sustained injuries had recovered and regretted the loss of one of the police officers during the battle with the herdsmen.