

TheMetroSection

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Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 GuardianNigeria

Herdsmen attack farm settlement in Enugu

From Lawrence Njoku (Enugu)

SUSPECTED Fulani herds-
men on Sunday night at-
tacked a farm settlement in
Uzo-Uwani Local Govern-
ment Council in Enugu State
and reportedly killed many
farmers and injured others.

The Guardian gathered that
the herdsmen, who wielded
dangerous objects, attacked
Obie Aku farm camp. The de-
velopment sent shivers in
the spin of the community
yesterday.

The incident is coming
about five years after gun
wielding herdsmen at-
tacked the Ukpabi Nimbo
community in Uzouwani
and killed several persons.
The invaders swooped on
the natives in the early hours
of the day and killed as
much as they could and fled.
That was on April 25, 2016.

However, the Police in the
state which confirmed the
recent attack said that it re-
covered only three young
men with various degrees of
machete cuts at the farm set-
tlement and rushed to the
hospital, where they were
being treated. The Police was

however silent about those
that allegedly died in the in-
cident.

As at Monday morning vil-
lagers were said to be comb-
ing the bushes near the farm
settlement in search for
more victims of the attack.

The three wounded per-
sons recovered from the at-
tack were Melly Nwodo from
Umugwuocha Mgboko;
Nnadi Arinze from
Umudikwu Alope Nua and
Opia Apeh from Og-
wurogwu, all in Uzouwani
council.

A source stated that the
farmers usually move from
their communities to the set-
tlement during the farming
period, explaining that "it is
not only farmers from
Uzouwani that settle there,
others come from other
neighbouring communities
that share boundary with
the people of Uzouwani"

He stated that apart from
the farmers from Uzouwani,
"there are Fulani herdsmen
who have settled in the area
and graze their cattle from
there. I know that they do
disagree, especially when

the cows eat up crops in the
farmland, but they usually
settle whatever grievances
they have. That is why we are
still shocked over this inci-
dent. We don't know the mo-
tive for the attack and how
many people were involved.

But this is certainly not a

good one".

Another source stated that
the attack was provoked by
the insistence for compen-
sation by one of the farmers
whose crops were destroyed
by the cattle.

"The herdsmen agreed to pay
but paid only seventy thou-

sand naira (N70,000). They
turned back and layed am-
bush on the farmer and killed
him. Other farmers were at-
tacked in the process. I don't
know how many of them
that were killed in the inci-
dent for now", he said
Enugu Police Public Relations
Officer, Mr Daniel Ndukwe in
a statement said: "Following
an information received at
Nimbo Police Division in the
early hours of today,
26/07/2021(yesterday), al-
leging that yet-to-be identified
persons in a location at
Opanda Village in Nimbo
Community of Uzo-Uwani
LGA, Police Operatives at-
tached to the Division raced
to the scene and found 3
young men with degrees of
machete cuts. They were im-
mediately rushed to a nearby
hospital, where they are re-
sponding to treatment.
"Meanwhile, the area is calm,
while the Commissioner of
Police, Mohammed Ndatsu
Aliyu, has ordered the con-
duct of thorough investiga-
tion to unravel the
circumstances surrounding

the incident and bring the
perpetrators to book. He
also calls on residents of the
area to remain calm and as-
sist the Police with useful in-
formation, please".

In another development,
Soldiers reportedly invaded
the Enugu camp of un-
known gunmen suspected
to be members of the East-
ern Security Network at Am-
agunze, Nkanu east council
of Enugu state.

During the raid, they were
said to have smashed a gang
of gunmen who had been
terrorizing Enugu metropo-
lis and its environs in past
weeks, killing some and re-
covering several other
items. Enugu had severally
been attacked after three
hijack vans were used to rob
a SuperMarket in the Onu
Asata axis.

During the robbery of the
SuperMarket, bags of rice,
Cartons of noodles, Gas
cylinders among others
were removed. It was closely
followed by the murder of
two high profile persons as
well as an attack on a police
check point at Amodu axis.



A victim