

Suspected herdsmen kill 55-year-old farmer in Delta community

From **Monday Osayande**, Asaba

SUSPECTED herdsmen have invaded Okpe-Abavo community in Ika South Local Council of Delta State, killing a 55-year-old farmer, Friday Jegbefume.

The Guardian learnt that the armed hoodlums stormed his house on Monday, injured one of his sons, kidnapped his wife and took her to an unknown destination.

The chairman of Okpe-Abavo community, Mr Augustine Nkemachor, who confirmed the development yesterday, said there has been no word about the wife.

Confirming the development, spokesperson for the State Police

Command, Bright Edafe, said the operative are currently investigating the matter.

President of Abavo Elites, Frank Moses Jegbefume, and the Assistant Secretary, Mr Jude Amamosa, had recently cried out over killings and other criminal activities in the community.

They also wrote to the state governor, Sheriff Oborevweri, asking for help.

Part of the letter reads: "For the past three years, security in Abavo and environs has largely deteriorated. There have been sporadic incidents of kidnapping for ransom, which have lately escalated to dangerous dimensions. Some of the victims have lost their lives in the process.



CP Abaniwonda Olufemi

Others were taken away by criminals and released only after huge sums of money, sometimes millions of naira, had been paid. Some victims were raped, while farmlands were destroyed.

"There are fears that if left unchecked, this criminality could spread to other parts of Abavo."