

Illo District Community Raises Alarm Over Armed Attacks On Herdsmen

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The people of Illo District in Bagudo Local Government Area of Kebbi State have called on the state authorities to urgently address the current wave of criminal activities in the area.

A visit to the area by reporters revealed that Illo, which has a large concentration of Fulani herdsmen, now experiences broad daylight stealing of their animals by hoodlums.

Illo village, which is situ-

ated on the bank of River Niger, is a boundary post between Nigeria and Republic of Benin, which has for the past two years been subjected to the menace of trans-border armed banditry.

It was learnt that one 18-year-old boy, who pastures his father's cattle, was killed while no fewer than 70 cows were missing in one of the raids on herdsmen in the area.

Also, two brothers, who were on the field pastur-

ing their father's cattle, were attacked by hoodlums, who inflicted injuries on them with machetes and other dangerous weapons.

A spokesman for the community, who spoke on condition anonymity, disclosed that the situation at Illo District had reached an alarming rate to the extent that nobody is spared in the incessant attacks.

He said even as these attacks continue unabated, police authorities in the state, the state government

and traditional rulers seem not to be doing anything positive to come to the aid of the people.

"Believe me sincerely, as I am talking to you now, no fewer than 60 per cent of our people, who are mainly Fulani, have deserted the town and migrated to the neighbouring country, the Benin Republic, to take cover for dear lives," he said, adding that most of those who fled are now comfortable in their new place of abode.

The community spokesman stated that a man was arrested recently by the police in Illo with 16 pistols found on him. He added that 10 out of the 16 pistols were alleged to have been sold out. The man, according to him, is helping the police in their investigations.

He appealed to the state government and Gwandu Emirate Council to come to the aid of the people of Illo District before they are forced to relocate to the Republic of Benin.

Panel