By Tony Ita Etim - Uyo

Residents and indigenes of Ikot Ekpeyak Ikono in Uyo Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State have fled the village following a clash with some Fulani herdsmen, which claimed a life and another person allegedely missing.

Daily Independent gathered that on Sunday afternoon there was a clash between herdsmen and youths from the village when two truck loads of cattle were discharged and directed into the village farmlands.

One of the youths from the village, Ofonime Micheal Asuquo, was alledgely shot dead by one of the herdmen when the youths demanded that the fulanis should take the cattle away from their farmlands.

Youth President, Ikot Ekpeyak, Mr. Gabriel Pius Iwok, who narrated the incident to our correspondent, said the deceased was one of the youths the villagers mandated to go and ask the Fulanis to take their cattle away as there was no grazing land, cattle market or abattoir in the community.

Iwok said as the youths were talking with the herdsmen, two men suspected to be security persons, dressed in mufti arrived the scene and opened fire on the youths, and Ofonime was killed in the process.

The youth leader alleged that the calibre of weapons used by the supposedly Fulani herdsmen, was too sophisticated to be locally made weapons.

He continued that since last Sunday soldiers from the 31 Battallion, Ibagwa have been parading the village and the Fulanis have threatened that if by 10am one of the missing herdsmen is not seen there will be a reprisal attack on the village.

According to Iwok, as a result of the threat, the village had been deserted as indigenes and residents are now seeking refuge in neibouring villages for the fear of the attack.

Iwok dismissed as false allegation by the Fulanis that one of them, a suy a seller, is missing, as his suy a basin was found in one of the farmlands in the village and pointed out that "this is a blackmail and an attempt to create and excuse to attack the village."

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