

Herdsman Kill 30 In Fresh Attack On Benue Community

.Gunmen Kill Two, Abduct One, Cart Away 14 Boats In Bayelsa .Cholera, Meningitis Outbreak Claims 40 In Jigawa

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Fulani Herdsmen

Yenagoa / Makurdi / Dutse – Suspected Fulani herdsmen on Monday killed over 30 persons in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State, among them women, children, and a 90-year-old woman.

In some cases, the herdsmen allegedly wiped out families, leaving none to carry on their lineage.

This was the case of Godwin Igoche, who was wiped out with his whole family, according to residents.

The killings were perpetrated by the suspected herdsmen in Omosu, Edumoga community of Okpokwu LGA of the state at about 4:30p.m, they said.

Following the killings, Samuel Ortom, the Benue State governor, has appealed to the Federal Government to step up efforts at putting an end to the massacres.

The incident took place ahead of the visit of President Muhammadu Buhari who may be visiting the state this week.

It would be recalled that the herdsman had on the first day of 2018 killed about 73 persons in Guma and Logo LGAs of the state.

Narrating the incident, one of the victims, Peter Ojobo, said his father, Innocent, was murdered in cold blood by the herdsman alongside his 90-year-old grandmother.

He further narrated the sad story of a relation, Godwin Igoche, and his two children who were killed during the attack, while Eric Attah was killed along with his wife.

Governor Samuel Ortom who visited the affected area on Tuesday described the attacks as “unfortunate, unwarranted, and uncalled for.”

He called on the concerned authorities to urgently put in more efforts that would permanently put a stop to the incessant attacks on his people by Fulani herdsman.

The governor further lamented that efforts made by the Federal Government by deploying security agencies to the state to restore peace were being frustrated by some Fulani mercenaries.

Ortom decried the situation whereby the herdsman would kill, maim, and rape women, adding that security personnel were not spared by these mercenaries.

While he reiterated his call for the arrest of the leadership of Myetti Allah Kautal Hore, the governor called for the arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators of the heinous acts.

Olofu Ogwuche, Chairman, Okpokwu LGA, earlier told Governor Ortom that arrangements for a peace meeting between farmers and herders had reached an advanced stage when the unfortunate incident took place.

He commended the governor for his prompt response by visiting the area immediately.

Gunmen Kill Two, Abduct One, Cart Away 14 Boats In Bayelsa

A gang of gunmen attacked Ayama community in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, killing two persons and wounding five others.

It was gathered that the bandits stormed the sleepy coastal community about 9p.m on Monday and started shooting sporadically.

The hoodlums, who are suspected to be sea robbers, pumped bullets into the community for over 25 minutes before carting away over 10 speed boats.

Those wounded were said to be receiving treatment at undisclosed health centres.

After operating at Ayama, members of the gang moved over to Ogbia town, headquarters of Ogbia LGA, where they laid siege and abducted one Augusta Apaga about 12:30a.m on Tuesday.

The gun-toting youths also went away with four 75 horse power engine boats parked at the Ogbia waterfront.

A member of the state House of Assembly representing Ogbia Constituency 2, Munalayefa Gibson, confirmed the attacks on Ayama and Ogbia towns.

He said that the operational manner of the gunmen suggests they have collaborators in the communities who also benefit from the proceeds of robbery attacks.

The legislator, who sympathised with the affected communities and the victims, called on the security agencies to spread their dragnets and arrest the perpetrators of the crimes.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer of the Bayelsa State Police Command, Asinim Butswat, confirmed the attacks on the two communities.

He said that the command has commenced investigation into the incidents.