

Fulani Herdsmen Kill Four In Delta

.One Dies, Others Injured As Soldiers, Natives Clash In Abuja

By **Our Correspondents** - April 11, 2019

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Asaba/Warri / Abuja – Suspected Fulani herdsmen reportedly killed four persons between Tuesday and Wednesday in Abraka, Ethiope East Local Government Area of Delta State.

Kennedy Ukuanovwe, one of the victims, was killed on Tuesday, while three others, yet to be identified, were killed on Wednesday at the same spot where Ukuanovwe was killed.

The late Ukuanovwe was an indigene of Urhuovie and resident in Urhuoka, both communities in Abraka, before his gruesome murder along the Benin-Abraka road while on his way home on his motorbike.

According to a family relative of Ukuanovwe, bullet wounds and several machete cuts were found on the body of the deceased.

The corpse has since been deposited in one of the morgues in Abraka.

According to a family source, the late Ukuanovwe, who had seven children, was in his late 40s, and was popularly known as a pepper soup seller in Urhuoka.

Reacting to the sad news, a family member, Prince Godstime Ukuanovwe, described the death of his uncle as a great loss, adding that the wife of the deceased had a child less than a year old that had been made fatherless by the herders.

President General of the community, Chief Emmanuel Idogho, and the Urhuoka Vigilante Chairman, Godday Agoh, in their respective comments, lamented the situation, saying that they were grieved by how the people were being subjected to unprovoked attacks by the herdsmen.

State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Onome Onovwakpoyeya, disclosed that the Divisional Police Officer, Abraka Police Division, CSP Hassan Isah, had mobilised men to the scene of the incident.

But indigenes of Urhuoka are said to be planning a massive protest over the killings.

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Meanwhile, one person was shot dead while four others sustained injuries in a fresh clash between soldiers and Abuja natives over land dispute in Tungan-Maje in Gwagwalada Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory.

One of the community leaders, Malam Tanko Sani, confirmed the death of one of the natives, a student named Hamas Usman, during the clash on Tuesday evening.

Speaking to our correspondent on Wednesday, Sani said trouble ensued when soldiers forcefully moved into the natives' land and started work on it without their consent.

According to him, four other persons were injured and presently receiving treatment in a hospital within the area.

"The soldiers have never engaged the community members for a discussion since the disagreement between them and natives started about three years ago," Sani said.

Meanwhile, the natives, comprising men and women, blocked the ever busy Zuba-Gwagwalada road to press home their demand.

The situation became worse as motorists plying the route were held in a long gridlock for over five hours before the intervention of some stakeholders.

The Agora of Zuba, Muhammed Bello, demanded that the natives be compensated even as he urged the natives to be calm.

Attempts to speak with the military personnel on ground proved abortive as at the time of filing this report.

Also, there was no statement from officials of the FCTA and FCT police command.

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