

Herdsmen Kill Three Members Of A Family In Benue

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Three teenagers, members of one family, were on Saturday shot to death following an attack by suspected Fulani herdsmen on Yelwata community in Guma Local Government Area (LGA) of Benue State.

The incident led to youths in the area using corpses of the deceased to block the Lafia-Makurdi Road for several hours, leading to a gridlock on the highway.

This is the second time within one month that youths have used corpses of their loved ones to block the highway in protest of their being killed.

The other time was when herdsmen attacked internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp, Abagana, Makurdi LGA, last month and killed several persons.

But in an attempt to dislodge the youths who mounted the road block at Yelwata, a border town between Benue and Nasarawa states, *Daily Independent* gathered that another person was "accidentally" shot to death by security men.

According to locals in the area, the three teenagers, who were members of one family met their untimely death when they went to work on their farm.

We further learnt that the herdsmen in their usual gue-

rilla style, stormed the area, killed the brothers and left as quickly as they arrived.

Daily Independent also gathered that it was with that anger that youths of the area mobilised, recovered the corpses from the farm and set up the road block with their corpses in protest.

It was in its bid to dislodge the youths, we learnt that a security personnel had fired into the crowd, leading to the death of one of the youths.

The Chairman, Guma LGA, Caleb Abah, who confirmed the incident said, "Sadly, while attempting to disperse the angry youths who defied efforts to be dislodged, there was a shot by the security agencies and unfortunately, one of the protesters was hit by a bullet and killed.

"As we speak right now, calm has been restored to the area and we are already making arrangements for the dead to be buried," he said.

He also explained that as soon as news of the incident got to the state governor, Samuel Ortom, he dispatched some government functionaries to the troubled spot to calm the tension-soaked community.

Efforts to get the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Catherine Anene, to confirm was not successful, as she did not pick nor return calls put through to her.