

5 Killed, Scores Displaced As Fulani Herdsmen Invade Makurdi

BY SOLOMON AYADO, Makurdi

No fewer than five persons were allegedly murdered yesterday and scores of persons displaced when suspected Fulani herdsmen invaded Makurdi, the Benue State capital.

There was heavy shootings in parts of the state capital including Adeke and Adaka communities located along the Makurdi-Naka-Ankpa expressway, as well as part of Achusa village and welfare quarters areas.

The ugly incident, which it was gathered began at about 4.30 am caused serious panic in the whole of Makurdi, and its environs. Residents including men, women and children were running helter-skelter for safety.

LEADERSHIP observed that the chaotic situation disrupted church activities around the affected communities in the state capital and

forced the congregations to vacate them. Residents closed commercial shops, just as they fled from all their homes and abandoned their valuable properties for safety.

Mr. Lucas Agoji, a 78-year-old resident of Adeke community, was displaced and was met stranded sitting with his wife and four children. He said "we started hearing gunshots in the morning and people were shouting, we had to quickly woke up and rushed out of the house to save our lives but we lost some of our relatives and others are missing."

It was gathered that the suspected Fulani herdsmen had invaded the areas to avenge the killing of 30 of their cows by some youths in the area. Another source said the attacks were linked to the dastardly activities of the Boko Haram sect.