

Fed Govt probes killing of 30 Ogun villagers by foreigners

suit before the court

that the battle over the H5N1 strain may be far from being over.

THE Federal Government Investigating into the killings of 30 residents of some border towns and villages in Yewa community in Ogun State. For over 10 hours, policemen at the Eleweran Police Headquarters, Abeokuta interrogated those believed to be involved in the murder.

The *Seriki* Fulani in the area, it was learnt, was quizzed severally over the incident.

The *Nation* learnt that some persons suspected to be facilitators and sponsors of the illegal entry of the "run-away" foreigners were also at the Eleweran headquarters to explain their roles in the incident.

Those invited were interrogated and questioned for several hours,

From Femi Shodunke,
Abeokuta

The Nation gathered.

The suspect made statements at the Homicide Department of the command.

Also, the Erelu of Eseluland, Oba Ebenezer Akinyemi, the traditional head of the communities and whose subjects were gruesomely murdered by the suspected foreign herdsmen made statement to the police.

The men were asked to leave after making statements, but were told that they should make themselves available whenever they are needed.

The *Nation* learnt that the police following the media reports on the incident had vowed to investigate the killings and arrest the

masterminds.

No fewer than 30 Nigerians have been killed by cattle rearers from the neighbouring Niger Republic.

Also about 18 villages are under the threat of been submerged by the rampaging herdsmen.

The herdsmen who invaded Yewa communities in Ogun West Area also sacked villagers in the communities of Moro, Asa, Agbon, Ojodu, Ibeku, Osada, Korole, Aga and Idodo, among others.

The communities are in Yewa North Local Government Area of the Gateway State.

Oba Akinyemi told reporters that the federal and state governments' assistance was needed by his people to save them from the rampaging cattle rearers.

He said about 18 villages were under the threat of being sacked by the Nigerien cattle rearers who in addition had destroyed farmlands in the Yewa communities.

Several houses had been set ablaze by the herdsmen who never hesitated in reacting angrily to enquiries by communities over the destruction of their farmlands.

It was also gathered that several of the women, including a pregnant woman, in the villages were raped by the herdsmen.

"We need the assistance of both the federal and state governments in this regard; them must to our aid before these people destroyed us," Oba Akinyemi said.

For over five hours, the royal

fathers conducted reporters round the affected communities, describing the action of the Nigerien as barbaric, disgusting and really shocking not only to him but the entire Yewa communities.

He said that as a result of the incessant attacks, many of the residents had relocated to some other villages for safety.

While the royal father was conducting the assessment tour, there was a report that the herdsmen had launched another attack on Obele, a town that is a few kilometres away to the neighbouring country.

Parents were seen with their wards running for safety, just as efforts were being made to reach the police for assistance.