

'Herdsman have killed 24 persons in Ogun since 2000'

•Police: we'll probe, prosecute suspects

From Ernest Nwokolo,
Abeokuta

SUSPECTED Fulani herds-
men have killed 24 per-
sons, injured scores of
others and destroyed crops es-
timated at millions of naira in
series of attacks on 13 commu-
nities in Ogun State between
2000 and December 20, 2017, it
has been learnt.

The affected victims, includ-
ing a husband and wife, hailed
from 13 communities of Asa,
Agbon-Ojodu, Igbonla, Korole,
Iboku, Moro, Koomi, Ibore,
Igan-Alade, Kodera, Owode-Ketu,
Adesina Village and Orisade - all in Ketu Local
Council Development Area
(LCDA) of Ogun State.

Community leaders, under
the auspices of Ketu Advance-
ment Forum (KAF) and Ketu
Community Development
Council (KCDC), gave the fig-
ures in letters, dated Decem-
ber 20, 2017, by their spokes-
men, Michael Abiose and Wil-
liams Olayode, to the commis-
sioner of police on behalf of
the affected communities.

KAF and KCDC urged the
police chief to ensure speedy
and diligent investigation into
the killings and the prosecu-
tion of suspected herdsman for
an attempted murder at Oja-
Odan last December.

They said the call became
necessary because dozens of
their people had been killed
while the herdsman had sus-
tained their deadly attacks.

Both groups said they were
horrified by murder of Mr. Olatunji
Tangu Afolabi by suspected
Fulani herdsman at Orisada
village on December 19.

Afolabi's killers were said to
have also burnt his body.

They also other people who
were killed by suspected herds-
men in the last eight years as
Adegbola Ajibiaran (Agbon-

Ojodu, 2000), Ayinde Korole
Korole (2002), Mr. Soji Aretola
(2004), Mr. Oga Aja (Asa,
2006), Mrs. Oga Ruth (Asa,
2006), Prophet Orisade (Igbonla,
2006), Mr. Adewale
Adekunle (Asa, 2006), Mr
Dele Akintan (Iboku, 2006)
Mr. Joseph Oga (Igbonla, 2007),
Mr. Moses Oga (Igbonla
(2007), Mr. Ajana Ogunlana
(Moro, 2007) and Mr.
Abisekan Femi (Koomi, 2008).

Others are: Mr. Femi
Oladokun (Koomi, 2008), Mr.
Sunday Idosu (Asa, 2008), Mr.
Gbenga Durosini (Ibore,
2008), Mr. Yomi Akinola (Igan-
Alade, 2011), Mr. Ogunjobi
Dotun (Kodera, 2011), Mr.
Ogunyomi Ige (Igan-Alade,
2011), Mr. Phillip Akan-an
(Owode-Ketu, 2011), Mr.
Amosun Olofinjin (Ogbon-
Ojodu, 2012), Mr. Akinola
Dayo Tunde (Agbon Ojodu,
2012) Mrs. Semitan Agbaosi
(Adesina Village, 2013)
Mr. Opeita Ayo (Agbon Ojodu,
2017) and Mr. Olatunji Tangu
Afolabi (Orisada, December 19,
2017).

The groups said: "We write
to commend the Nigeria Po-
lice Force (NPF) in Ogun State
on its recent breakthrough of
arresting three herdsman for
attempted murder and unlaw-
ful possession of firearms in
our community, as reported
on page 5, page 7 and page 40
of *The Punch*, *New Telegraph*
and *The Nation* of Thursday,
December 14, 2017, copies of
which are hereby attached.

"The suspects, according to
the police, are: Mohammed
Bello (40), Muhammed Mohm-

oh (30) and Yisau Umoru (18).
The action of the command
was not only a welcome de-
velopment to us but also a tes-
timony to your unwavering
commitment to the security of
lives and property in our com-
munities, which have come
under consistent attacks by the
herdsman for over a decade.

"However, it has become
pertinent and expedient for us
to call for speedy and diligent
prosecution of the arrested
suspects in view of the dog-
gedness of the herdsman to
sustain their act.

"You may wish to note that
on Tuesday, December 19,
2017, and just two days after
the weekend attack, the herds-
man again attacked and grue-
somesly murdered Mr. Olatunji
Tangu Afolabi at Orisada.

"They did not only murder
him but also set his body
ablaze. The incident was re-
ported at the Igan-Alade Po-
lice Station.

"May we refresh your mem-
ory to the fact that Ketu LCDA
unarguably remains the "the-
atre of herdsman's yearly kill-
ings" in Ogun State. The arriv-
al of the herdsman in our com-
munities at the dawn of every
dry season often heralds the
paralysis of economic and so-
cial lives.

"It may also interest you to
note that 24 people had been
killed by the herdsman be-
tween 2000 and 2017.

"It is important to let you
know that we have always
been collaborating with nec-
essary stakeholders towards
addressing the menace of the
herdsman's attacks on our
communities.

"The efforts included the fol-
lowing:

i. Engagement with secu-
rity agencies through "Save
Our Souls (SOS)" letters and
meetings;

ii. Letters to the Executive
and Legislative arms of gov-
ernment;

iii. Active participation in all
public hearings by the Ogun
State House of Assembly to-
wards finding lasting solution
to the menace.

"Active participation in the
Memorandum of Understand-
ing (MoU) midwived by the
state government involving
relevant agencies of the state,
Ketu people, the herdsman and
All Farmers Association of
Nigeria, among others.

"Regrettably, however, all
the above efforts have been
frustrated by the unabated on-
slaught on our people by the
herdsman.

"It is in view of the above
that your recent breakthrough
attracts our attention and re-
solve to work with you to en-
sure diligent prosecution of the
arrested suspects."

Police spokesman Abimbo-
la Oyeyemi, an Assistant Su-
perintendent of Police (ASP),
told *The Nation* that the suspects
would be investigated and
prosecuted.

Oyeyemi said the police do
not need to be told or prodded
to carry out their duty.

He added: "It is our duty to
do the job. They don't have to
write a petition or beg us to
investigate and prosecute crim-
inals. It is our duty. We have,
in respect of the suspected
herdsman, arrested some sus-
pects for attempted murder."