

Herdsmen attacks: ‘Two killed, 30 primary schools shut in Ogun’

Posted By: [Ernest Nwokolo, Abeokuta](#) On: February 5, 2018 In: [News](#)

0 



Thirty primary schools and several health centres have been closed in Ketu communities of Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in Ogun State, following attacks by suspected Fulani herdsmen in the last five months.

Also, two persons – Mr. Olabisi Tangu Afolabi and Adegoke Olude – were reportedly killed and seven, including four women, injured in attacks on Ketu villages by suspected herdsmen between last December 10 and January 30.

In a statement yesterday in Abeokuta, the capital, by leaders of the community, Mr Michael Abiose and Mr Williams Olayode, the Ketu Advancement Forum (KAF), speaking for indigenes, regretted that Governor Ibikunle Amosun’s administration has failed to protect them.

Titled: Do Our Lives Matter to Ogun State Government? over “repeated murder of Ketu people and destruction of their means of livelihood by marauding Fulani herdsmen?” KAF noted that while Ketu residents and the police were working together on the matter, the residents could not remember any step the state government had taken to protect the people and their means of livelihood from the attackers.

The forum wondered if their lives mattered to the governor.

KAF said it remained resolute that “there is no land for open grazing in Ketu LCDA,” adding that the herdsmen have proved to be deadly and incapable of co-habiting with their host community amid shortage of farmlands, since the government has allegedly taken the chunk of their land for forest reserves.

The statement reads: “For us, as Ketu people located in Ogun State by God, the present administration under Governor Amosun, as the Chief Security Officer, has failed us.

“We (bear) great frustration and agony in our hearts because neither the governor nor his officials has done anything to rescue us from the renewed siege of Fulani herdsmen, who started (attacks) on our communities in October, 2017.

“Without going into the hostilities of over 15 years, all of which the state is well aware of, we like to tell the world that most communities in Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have come under renewed siege of Fulani herdsmen in the past five months.

“Our farmers have been sent away from their farms, over 30 primary schools have been shut down, health facilities closed and economic activities paralysed.

“The climax of it started on December 10, last year, when innocent aged women were attacked and macheted in-between Moro and Eegelu villages for their refusal to submit themselves to be raped by heartless herdsmen.

“Nine days after, on December 19, last year, the marauding herdsmen were out on their evil mission again, killing Mr. Olabisi Tangu Afolabi and setting his body ablaze at Oosada village. To add sorrow to the Christmas celebrations, they struck again on December 25, last year, and murdered Mr. Adegoke Olude at Ogunba Ayetoro.

“However, with the active collaboration of our vigilantes, three of the suspected killers, namely Mohammed Bello (40), Muhammed Momoh (30) and Yisau Umoru (18), were arrested and later paraded by Police Commissioner Ahmed Illyasu with an AK-47 rifle,

pieces of 0.8mm live ammunition, 26 live cartridges and two sharp cutlasses, all recovered from them.