

Herders kill five hunters in Benue

From Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi

SUSPECTED armed herdsman in Okpomaju community in Otukpo killed five hunters on Wednesday evening and injured several others.

The Och'Otukpo Odu, Chief John Eimonye, and leaders of the armed herders had on Tuesday resolved, among other things, to ensure peaceful coexistence and expose criminals found amongst the two parties.

This came after one herdsman and two hunters had been killed.

However, the renewed hostility accompanied by massive killings and alleged destruction of houses at Okpomaju seems to indicate that the peace deal has collapsed.

According to an indigene, "the hunters were at home in Okpomaju when the armed herdsman, numbering 12, stormed the village with sophisticated weapons and shot indiscriminately into the air.

"In the process, they killed Peter, popularly known as JPG, and Moses, while others ran in different directions into the nearby bushes with gunshots. So far, we have recovered three dead bodies from those who ran to the bush, making a total of five. The fifth was recovered near Odudaje stream.

"We are at the graveside, burying one of the victims and awaiting the other bodies from the mortuary. We are with over 200 Otukpo hunters."