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# 80 killed in renewed Fulani/Agatu hostilities

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 16.Mar.2015 | [DISQUS\\_COMMENTS](#) |  Johnson Babajide -Makurdi

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IT was a bleak Sunday in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State, as people suspected to be Fulani herdsmen attacked a village in the council and killed about 80 persons within three hours.

Impeccable sources told the Nigerian Tribune that the village was attacked around 5.00 a.m.by Fulani mercenaries, killing and maiming people, including women and children, while they also burned several houses.

Sunday's attack, according to a priest who did not want his name in print, was the worst in the last four years as the council had been witnessing series of attacks from invading Fulani herdsmen.

The priest, based in Obagaji, headquarters of the council, while speaking with the Nigerian Tribune on phone, said "as early as 5.00 a.m. Egba people were woken up with wailing from all over the community, as the marauders had surrounded the whole community and forced themselves into their houses, killing people, mostly women and children, with matchets.

"Indeed, in the whole communities in the council area today (Sunday), no church open for service because of what happened. In fact, I lost five of my members in Egba community."

Another resident of the community told the Nigerian Tribune on phone that many people were killed, adding that the whole community had been deserted as of the time he was speaking with the Nigerian Tribune.

The local, whose phone was being interrupted by poor network, said "as I am talking to you now, we are in the bush trying to escape the invading marauders," adding that "all the neighbouring communities have been deserted for fear of attack.

"Before I could escape from our village (Egba), it was a gory tale, as I saw no fewer than 40 bodies on the way."

The PDP gubernatorial running mate, Honourable John Ngbede, who incidentally hails from the council area, told the Nigerian Tribune on phone that 60 persons were killed, while people were still searching for more persons whose location remained unknown.

Confirming the attack, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Hycinth Dagala, said as soon as the command was intimated of the attack, he instantly responded by deploying his men in the troubled community.

He said as of the time his men arrived in the village, only 30 dead persons were sighted, adding that while his men were on search of possible dead bodies, he concluded that he would rather rely on the information from his men.

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