

# Military kills 35 herdsman in Benue, loses one soldier

FROM AYODELE ADESANMI  
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**T**HIRTY-FIVE herdsman have been killed by the military carrying on 'Operation Whirl Stroke' in Benue State, while one militia was killed in Nasarawa State.

This was contained in the press statement issued by the Defence Information

Acting Director, Brigadier-General John Agim.

He said the troops deployed in Nasarawa, Taraba, Benue and Zamfara states said one of the troops was killed, two sustained injuries and one was still missing.

The Defence Spokesman also said that 11 militia had also been arrested and several arms recovered.

While giving account of the operation in Benue State, General Agim said military carried out operation across Gwer West, Logo and Guma local government areas of Benue State, where the troops enraged herdsman and militia where 35 herdsman were killed.

"Similarly, clearance operation was conducted

across Gwer West, Logo, and Guma local government areas of Benue State at the weekend.

"Troops made contact with heavily-armed herdsman around lower Benue and a militia camp at Chetarer village.

"The troops engaged the militia and followed the pursuit with M135 Helicopter of their air component.

This led to a large member of them being neutralised.

"In all, 35 herdsman were neutralised and a large number of them escaped with gunshot injuries.

"However, one personnel was killed in action, two who sustained slight injuries; had been treated and discharged.

"Also, a personnel is still missing in action."

The Defence spokesman also claimed that a 32-year-old identified as Musa Habu was arrested in Nasarawa State.

In all, the spokesman said that several arms and ammunitions were recovered.

The suspect had been handed over to the Directorate of State Service (DSS) for further necessary action.

## ...Another 5 killed by herdsman in Benue

JOHNSON BABAJIDE - MAKURDI

**L**ESS than five days after some teachers were killed in a community in Benue State, Fulani herdsman again struck at a village called Michia, in the troubled Logo Local Government Area of the state, killing five persons.

The incident, according to a local, occurred between 11.30 and 11.55 p.m. on Sunday.

A community leader in the council area, who was a me-

dia assistant to the erstwhile governor of the state, Joseph Aniwah, said the attackers-herdsman, carried out the attack professionally, leading to many being injured.

He added that soldiers arrived the scene after the heinous crime had been committed.

Confirming the incident to the *Nigerian Tribune*, the council chairman, Richard Nyajo, disclosed that he hailed from the village that

was attacked, saying five persons were killed during the attack and many others wounded.

"Yes, the herdsman attacked my village, Michia, killing five persons and injuring many others. After the attack, they withdrew through Aru-

gu, a village close to Anyim," he said.

Nyajo said some villagers traced their footsteps and recovered some bank ATM cards which he said would be handed to security personnel as evidence.

The chairman said the corpo-

es had been deposited at the General Hospital, Anyim.

However, the state Commissioner of Police, Futai Owasent, asked *Nigerian Tribune* to see the spokesman for Joint Task Force for brief on the issue.

"Well, I cannot say anything

on that now; you know it is no longer police issue, it is now a Joint Task Force and there is a spokesman for that who will brief you people," he said.

Spokesman for Nigerian Air Force, Wing Commander Emmanuel Ibeoma, said he was not aware of the attack.

