

Tension in Kogi as youths kill herdsmen in revenge, dump bodies into river

Yekini Jimoh | Lokoja

YOUTHS from Oforachi community in Idah Local Government Council of Kogi State have allegedly killed four herdsmen and dumped their bodies in Ofu River following the killing of one Godwin Egbunu aged 65 on his farm.

An eyewitness, one Audu disclosed to the Nigerian Tribune that the incident happened last week Friday, saying the farmer was attacked by some herdsmen who invaded his farmland and destroyed all his crops.

According to him, the farmer had launched complaints at a police station where two policemen were asked to go with him to his farm for investigation into the matter.

But according to the source, on getting to the farm the suspected herdsmen again

swooped on the farmer in presence of the policemen and killed him.

Angered by the senseless killing of the farmer, the youths killed four herdsmen in revenge.

A source who preferred anonymity, told the Nigerian Tribune that the policemen allegedly said they could not avert the killing of the farmer because they were not armed.

A community resident also confirmed that members of the community had for some time not been sleep with their two eyes closed, as they have been on red alert to counter any sudden attack on them by herdsmen, especially at night in revenge of their kinsmen that were killed by the youths.

Communities such as Ogbogbo, Odolu, Akpanya closer to Oforachi are also living in fear as a result of possible re-

prisal by the herdsmen.

Meanwhile the Public Relations Officer of the Kogi State Police Command, Mr Williams Anya, in a press statement confirmed the incident to the Nigerian Tribune on Monday.

According to him, on January 18 at about 7:00 a.m the command received information from Oforachi that unknown persons suspected to be herdsmen had killed one Godwin Egbunu, 65, of same area on his farm, and that the incident had triggered an attack on any herdsmen on sight by the irate youths.

He said SUPOL stationed at Ajaka immediately mobilised its personnel to the scene and rescued two Fulani men from the mob whom he affirmed were seriously injured.

DSP Ayah said the injured Fulani men were rushed to Idah Hospital for treatment.

"Area Command Idah equally mobilised personnel from divisions under its command PMF SARS Operatives reinforced team on ground

"Normalcy had been restored; they took the photographs of the corpse and it was taken to a general hospital mortuary for autopsy as investigation continues."

He also said one Mohammed Arade a Fulani man of Egabada village reported at the Ajaka police station that two of their men, namely Abubakar Nahare, 65, and Hassan Natunku, 60, had not been seen since the incident.

He said immediately a search party led by the Acting Area Commander Idah swung into action, as the corpse of the two missing Fulani men whose hands were tied, were recovered from Ofu River at Oforachi.