

Community, police differ on alleged herdsmen's attack in Benue

13 people were killed —Community We found only two corpses —Police

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THE people of Itakpa community in Obi Local Government Area of Benue State and the police have differed over the casualties recorded during the invasion of the area by suspected herdsmen.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that suspected herdsmen, last Sunday at about 9.00 p.m., invaded the community and killed 13 people.

However, the state police command claimed that only two corpses were discovered in the community.

Among those killed in

the community was a ward chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the area identified as Augustine Abbey.

An eyewitness said the suspected herdsmen, numbering about eight, invaded the area with AK-47 rifles and four motorcycles and started shooting at people at random.

A first class chief in Ig-

ede land, His Royal Highness, Oga Ero (CP retd), who spoke with the *Nigerian Tribune* on phone confirmed that 13 of his subjects were killed in the attack.

The traditional ruler said the herdsmen had on May 9 attacked Echori, a neighboring community to Itakpa, where they killed two people before attack-

ing Itakpa at 9:00 p.m last Sunday.

However, the state police command said two corpses were found in the area against the claim that 13 people were killed.

Spokesperson for the police command, DSP Catherine Anene, said "when we got to the area, only two corpses were found by somebody's farm; we

searched and searched the whole area and found nothing again.

"So the Commissioner of Police went back to the community and asked where were the people killed, but the villagers claimed that in their culture, they don't show corpses to the police, so, we cannot confirm what we did not see."

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