

# Again, suspected herders kill 13 in Benue

## Several others feared killed in communal clash

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**B**ARELY 48 hours after suspected herders killed 10 people, including two aid workers in Guma Local Government Area of Benue State, another 13 people have also been murdered in the same council area.

The latest killings were said to have occurred on Tuesday during separate attacks on innocent people.

It was gathered that five of the victims were said to be returning from a burial ceremony when they were attacked, while the other eight

were killed at about 10.00 p.m in their residences.

The first attack occurred at Ulevkaa village, while the second attack occurred at Branch Ude, both in Guma Local Government Area.

A source who identified himself as Joe said the herds-men opened fire on a *Toyota Picnic* vehicle, killing a three-month-old baby who was shot in the chest, while his mother was shot in the thigh.

The source further said that the same herders also shot a couple, just as they hacked another person identified as Solomon Kumaiin to death.

Speaking on the attacks, the chairman of Guma Local Government Area, Caleb Aba, said the attacks took place on Tuesday.

The council chair said: "It is true that there was an attack yesterday [Tuesday]. There was a burial in Torkula and people who were coming back from the burial came under attack and about five persons were killed.

"Also, at about 10:00 p.m., yesterday [Tuesday], there was another attack at Branch Ude, where about eight persons were killed, making a total of 13 people only yesterday [Tuesday].

"Two people were injured

going by the information I received and they are now receiving treatment in the hospital."

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, DSP Catherine Anene, said she was yet to receive the report.

In another development, several people have been feared killed following a communal clash in the troubled Bonta-Ukpute areas of the state.

Several houses were also reported burnt during the crisis.

*Nigerian Tribune* learnt that some militia from Bonta allegedly invaded Ochoro

community on Tuesday and attacked residents.

It was reliably gathered that Iggede people are the inhabitants of Ochoro community situated in Konshisha Local Government Area.

A source said: "Several women and children were killed and several houses razed."

Speaking on the crisis, the chairman of Oju Local Government Area, Clement Onaa, confirmed the crisis, but added that the area is in Konshisha Local Government Area.

He said: "The attack on Tuesday was not in Oju, but Konshisha, though Ochoro

community consists of Iggede people. One thing you must know is that Oju and Obi people, who are Iggede, live in Gwer East and even Konshisha LGA or any other Tiv areas.

"I am aware of the crisis and I have called my colleague in Konshisha LGA to commiserate with him. So, the crisis is not in my council area."

However, when contacted, the chairman of Konshisha Local Government Area, James Ijirgba, said he was aware of the crisis, just as he added that he was waiting to be further briefed by the divisional police officer (DPO) in charge of the area.

### No Baptist female student