

Again, herdsmen attack Ondo community, kill five, injure many

•We are on their trail —Amotekun

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Akure

H ERDSMEN on Monday afternoon attacked Arimogija community in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State, killing five persons and injuring several others.

The latest incident came 72 hours after an attack on Molege community, also in Ose council area, where three persons were killed and buildings burnt.

It was gathered that the armed herdsmen attacked some men on their farm, killing two of them, while others who escaped with injuries informed the people of the community.

The youth and the vigilante group in the community

then mobilised to the farm, but the herdsmen, who had laid an ambush for them, attacked them, killing three men, including the community's youth leader, Lucky Augustine.

The armed men immediately escaped from the community, while residents alerted men of the state security outfit, Amotekun, who trailed the hoodlums into the forest.

Recounting the incident, the youth secretary of Arimogija, Mr Nweke Izuchukwu Jude, said the five youths were killed in two different attacks by the herdsmen.

He said: "They attacked the first set of people on the farm and killed two of them. It was those who escaped from the first attack who called other villagers for help.

"But while those who went to rescue them were trying to

take the injured back home for treatment, the herders appeared again and killed three more people.

"The armed men are still in our bushes and farmlands and we can no longer go to our farms.

"They know all the topography of the forest more than we and all we need is the support of security men to chase them away or arrest them."

Nweke, however, claimed that the perpetrators carried out the attack due to the absence of security men in the community.

He appealed to the state governor for better reinforcement of security men so as to secure the lives of villagers against another attack.

Confirming the attack, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Funmilayo

Odunlami, said the details of the attack were still sketchy.

However, the commander of Amotekun in the state, Chief Adetunji Adeyeye, said his men stationed at Molege community were informed about the attack and rushed to the area.

He said his men had been deployed in the area and were already combing the forest to arrest the perpetrators, just as he declined to give further details about casualties.

Some herdsmen last Friday invaded Molege community, killing three persons and setting buildings and property on fire.

The state governor, Mr Rotimi Akeredolu, who visited the area on Sunday to assess the level of destruction, promised to bring those behind the attack to book.