

Again, suspected herders kill three mourners in Benue as troops rescue eight kidnap victims

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SUSPECTED Fulani herds-
men again attacked Be-
nue communities as three
mourners, among them a
woman, were killed on Sat-
urday at Guma Local Gov-
ernment Area of the state.

This is coming barely 48
hours after five people
were killed by suspected
herders at Gwer West Local
Government Area of the
state

In the latest attack, suspected Fulani herds-
men were said to have
laid ambush along lor-
dye-Gbanjimba road at
about 5pm Saturday, Feb-
ruary 19, 2022 and shot at
the victims who were on
motorcycles; two males
and a female, while they
were returning from a
burial.

Guma, which has been
the worst hit by herds-
men attacks, is ironically Gov-
ernor Samuel Ortom's local
government.

It was gathered that two
people died on the spot
from gunshot wounds
while the other was bru-
tally macheted to death.

Confirming the incident,
the media aide to the state
governor, Nathaniel Ikyur,
said that soldiers attached

to *Operation Whirl Stroke*
recovered the bodies and
deposited the corpses at
Gbanjimba General Hospital.

"Sadly, this has been
the plight of Benue indi-
genes in the hands of Fu-
lani herds-
men who have
invaded the state in a bid
to take over our ancestral
lands," he lamented.

Efforts to get the reaction
of the Benue State Police
command were unsucces-
sful as the mobile number of
the Police Public Relations
Officer (PPRO), Catherine
Anene, was switched off
at the time of filing this re-
port.

In a related development,
soldiers of *Operation Whirl
Stroke* have rescued eight
people kidnapped by sus-
pected herders at Agasha
in Guma Local Government
Area of the state.

The victims were re-
portedly kidnapped last
Wednesday while on their
farm, but were rescued by
soldiers three days after.

It was gathered that
among the victims were six
females and two males.

Ikyur, who also confirmed
the rescue of the victims,
said that the OPWS troops
made contact with the kid-
nappers at Gbekyor, saying
the troops overpowered
the hoodlums.