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Herdsmen Attack Edo Community, Kill Five, Maim Others

By 'Suyi Ayodele - Benin

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Tragedy struck at the agrarian community of Odiguetue in Ovia North-East Local Government Area of Edo State on Thursday as armed herdsmen attacked the village, killing five people, and left scores of others with various injuries.

Tribune Online gathered that the herdsmen, who had about a month ago, attacked security personnel in the locality and burnt down a patrol van, came back on Thursday morning to unleash mayhem on the locals, who for sometime had been resisting the headers from feeding their cows with the farm produce of the villagers.

Narrating the Thursday's ordeal in the hands of the killers herdsmen, a community leader, Lt. Commander Anthony Ogie (Rtd), said: "for sometime now, the herdsmen have harassing us. You can go to the farm anymore because of them. Last week, around 7 pm, they came close to the houses, shooting but when the people came out, they went back to the bush.

"Then on Thursday, people were on their farms when the herdsmen came and killed three people. That was in the morning. Later in the evening, they came again and killed two more but this time on ' [Chat](#) expressway. There is a police check point on the highway. The police saw them but didn't do anything.

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“Anytime the herdsman come, we usually call the police and soldiers, who will come but will not go into the bush where these herdsman have their camps, even when the villagers volunteer to lead the security men. Odiguetue is a peaceful community. How can you do this to a people who are peaceful and who go about their normal businesses?” Ogie lamented.

Also speaking, another community leader, Elder John Osagiede, said that he got the information that the village was going to be attacked and tried to reach the authorities to no avail.

“When I gotten information that the herdsman were going to attack Odiguetue, I tried to reach the deputy governor but I couldn’t. Then I got in touch a honourable, who promised to reach the AIG. The herdsman have been tormenting the villagers. They uproot their cassava and feed the tubers to their cows.

“On Thursday, the herdsman came and killed three people. One of the victims, when they used gun and cutlass on him and it did not work, they rammed stick into his mouth. Later, they went and killed another people. Five people have been killed so far. This is what they have been doing to us for a long time now,” Osagiede bemoaned.

A University of Benin (UNIBEN) retiree, Mr. Joseph Obuele, 68 years old, told Tribune Online that “When the incident happened on Thursday, we told the police.

“I left the village yesterday (Friday) and I am on my way back there now (Saturday evening). It was on Thursday that the herdsman came and killed three people on their farms. Some other casualties were recorded in the neighbouring village, some three kilometres from Odiguetue.

“We informed the police. The police came and they were the ones who took the corpses to the mortuary. For now, there is no security. We are the ones keeping vigilance to ward off further attacks,” Obuele added.

Efforts to get the Edo State Police Command Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Bello Kontongs, to react did not yield any response.

As at the time of filing this report, Mr. Kontongs was yet to respond to the message: “Good evening, PPRO. Could you please confirm the killings at Odiguetue on Thursday. Heard your men were on ground to evacuate the victims. Thanks and God bless”, sent to the Command’s Press Interactive WhatsApp platform.

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