

Six killed in herdsmen's attacks on Ondo communities

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SIX persons have been reported killed following fresh attacks by suspected herdsmen on Arimogija and Molege communities in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State.

The six victims, who were farmers and traders, were said to have been killed while trying to resist the invasion of the herdsmen on their farms and homes.

For the traders, it was learnt that the herdsmen attacked

them while returning to the towns from Akure, killing all of them and setting the vehicle they were travelling in ablaze after they had taken their monies and other belongings.

A source said many houses, cars and motorcycles were also burnt during the attack on the communities.

A first class traditional ruler in the area, the *Onimoru* of Imoru, Oba Rotimi Obamuwagun, who confirmed the invasion and attack on the people of the communities,

lamented the atrocities of the herdsmen in the area.

The monarch disclosed that over four hectares of cassava farm belonging to one of his subjects was destroyed by the herdsmen, adding that the farm was financed through a bank loan.

He said the herdsmen, who are always armed with sophisticated weapons, are becoming more daring by visiting homes and taking farmers to their farms and ordering them to uproot cassava for their cows.

He noted that apart from their cows being fed with cassava, the herdsmen also harvest other farm crops to feed themselves.

Corroborating Oba Obamuwagun, the Odibiado of Ijagba, Oba Andrew Ikioya Ilevare, said the herdsmen now harvest plantains and other farm produce and take them to the market to sell.

The traditional rulers called on the state government to draft more Amotekun operatives to the area.

Chairman of the council

area, Honourable Adekunle Dennis, expressed concerns over incessant attacks on farmers and traders in the area.

He said the council would meet with relevant authorities and stakeholders in the area to redesign the security architecture in all the flashpoints in the area to nip the security challenges in the bud.

He, however, called on community leaders, youth organisations and other stakeholders to be more security conscious, just as he

charged them to improve on intelligence gathering that can lead to the arrest of the herdsmen.

He added that government alone cannot track down the criminals without the necessary information from members of the public.

Speaking on the development, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Funmi Odunlami, said men of the command had already been deployed in the area.

She assured that the criminals would soon be arrested.

Three feared killed many