

Gunmen kill 46 in Benue

Eight corpses, including that of a police officer, already recovered — Police

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| Makurdi

and a brother-in-law.

SUSPECTED herders on Wednesday attacked Umogidi Entekpa community in Adoka district of Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State for the second day running and killed 46 people.

Among those killed were a son of the council chairman, Bako Eje; his nephew

The herders had on Tuesday attacked the community and killed three persons.

Confirming the attack and casualty figure, the Special Adviser on Security to the Governor, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Hemba (retd), in a telephone chat with newsmen on Thursday, said 46 people were killed.

Hemba said: "I can confirm to you that there was an attack in Umogidi and as

of this morning [Wednesday], the causality figure from those who were seen physically from what I was told were 46. But the figure may be higher because some people are still reported missing.

"The local government chairman is from that community and unfortunately, he too lost his 32-year-old son. It's a very tragic and painful incident."

He added that more policemen and soldiers had

been deployed in the area.

A native who identified himself as Dan informed the *Nigerian Tribune* that the herdsman returned on Wednesday, after earlier killing three persons on Tuesday.

He said they killed about 46 people during Wednesday's attack.

The chairman of Otukpo council area, Bako Eje, who confirmed the attack on Thursday, lamented the loss of his 32-year-old son,

a nephew and a brother-in-law to Wednesday's attack.

Eje said: "You know that these herders killed three persons on Tuesday and they came back yesterday [Wednesday] at about 4:15p.m and killed 46 people, including my own son who was 32 years; we just buried him and some other persons are still missing.

"Among the people killed were my immediate younger sister's husband and her second son who

was almost 38 years old."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Catherine Anene, confirmed the attack and stated that eight corpses, including a police officer, have been recovered.

Anene said: "Attack at Umogidi community confirmed. Eight corpses recovered, including a police officer. More police teams have been deployed in the area to forestall further breakdown of law and order."