

Gunmen kill seven in Benue

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GUNMEN suspected to be herders on Sunday invaded communities in Logo Local Government Area of Benue State and killed seven persons.

The gunmen were said to have launched attacks twice in the council area, first on a

commercial vehicle between Arufu and Chembe villages, where they shot at passengers.

It was gathered that the attackers later invaded Mchia community in the night and killed seven persons.

Several others were reported to have been missing following the invasion.

A community leader, Anawah Joseph, who spoke

with the *Nigerian Tribune* on phone on Monday, said the first attack was on a commercial vehicle between Arufu and Chembe villages.

He said: "Armed herders, in collaboration with Jukun militias on Sunday, shot at commercial vehicle heading to lorza, with some passengers sustaining gunshot injuries.

"They also invaded Mchia, where they killed seven per-

sons."

Chairman of the local government, Reverend Adagbe Jonathan, who spoke with the *Nigerian Tribune* on Monday, said that seven persons were killed, while several others were still missing.

He said: "It's true that armed herders, in collaboration with Jukun militias, attacked my people yesterday [Sunday] at about 9:00p.m.

"With the help of policemen, we were able to recover five corpses on Sunday night, while two corpses were recovered this morning [Monday].

"They [gunmen] also shot at a commercial vehicle where two people were injured.

"As I am talking with you now, the two persons who sustained injuries have been

taken to hospital at Anyim, but many people are still missing."

The council boss said he was on his way to report the incident to the Security Adviser to the Governor, Joseph Har.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Catherine Anene, could not be reached on phone as she did not answer calls made to her mobile phone.