

19 Killed, houses set ablaze as suspected herdsmen invade Kogi community

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GUNMEN suspected to be herdsmen on Thursday invaded Agojeju Odo in Omala

Local Government Area of Kogi state, killing nineteen people and setting many houses ablaze.

It was gathered that the armed men encircled the community and launched a violent assault, resulting in fatalities and the destruction of homes.

An anonymous community leader, who narrowly escaped the attack, revealed that the residents were caught off guard by the sudden onslaught.

"Currently, 27 bodies have been recovered, and local vigilantes are conducting search operations in the surrounding bush to locate missing individuals," the source said.

The source said rumors of a potential invasion of the community had been circulating for the past three weeks, and the newly appointed Local Government Council Caretaker Chairman, Mark Edibo, had been notified, despite assurances of safety and security.

According to the source, the violence stemmed from a disagreement between a young man in Agojeju-Odo and a Fulani herder over damage to his farm by cattle.

Despite intervention by the

caretaker chairman, tensions escalated and culminated in Thursday's killings and destruction.

The Kogi State Police Public Relations Officer, SP William Aya, confirmed the incident, stating that the Commissioner of Police had deployed a tactical squad comprising mobile police, soldiers, and vigilante men to the area to restore order in response to a distress call.

SP Aya said that "many people sustained gunshot injuries."

Aya added that the yet to be identified gunmen attacked Agojeju Odo community in Omala LGA on Thursday, noting that the Divisional Police Officer of the local govern-

ment informed him that nineteen people were killed while many sustained injured in the attack.

He stated that the Commissioner of Police, Kogi State Police Command, CP Bethrand Onuoha has deployed more policemen to the community, assuring that the perpetrators of the heinous act would be apprehended..

The community appealed to Kogi state governor, Usman Ododo and security agencies to come to their aid by deploying more security personnel to the area, as the police in the Local Government Council have been overwhelmed and overpowered by the attackers.