

③ Gunmen invade Edo community, burn cars, houses

BANDITS who identified themselves as 'Ijaw Freedom Fighters,' on Sunday night attacked Imariogha community, near Okomu oil palm plantation, in Ovia South West Local Government Area of Edo State, setting ablaze over eight vehicles, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has reported.

Commissioner of Police in the state, Funsho Adegboye, confirmed the attack to NAN in a telephone interview in Benin.

The police boss said: "We are aware of the incident

and have visited the community.

"We are already holding talks in partnership with sister security organisations and Okomu oil palm company to arrest the situation."

Meanwhile, an eyewitness told NAN that the invaders entered the community, formerly known as AT&P, from the riverside at midnight, shooting sporadically into the air and setting fire to about eight vehicles and destroying many houses.

A community leader, Mr Rex Akpokiniovo, told NAN

that while one person was killed, a chief of the community, Pa Gabriel Okorugbe, who sustained injuries, had been taken to the hospital.

"The corpse of the dead person has been taken away by the police.

"My house was attacked and my car burnt by the gunmen who came into the community at midnight and started shooting sporadically into the air.

"One of the Okomu workers, who resides in the community was killed, while the invaders left a warning note

on his chest," he said.

According to the note addressed to Governor Godwin Obaseki, the attackers, who identified themselves as 'Ijaw Freedom Fighters,' made several demands from the management of Okomu Oil Palm Plc.

Some of the demands included directorship position in the firm and 25 percent of the company's shares.

The group said: "We are not fighting any security personnel but Okomu oil company."