

Lagos, on Friday.

Youths protest, block highway as gunmen kill two farmers in Kogi

•Gov orders crackdown on killers

Yekini Jimoh | Lokoja

GUNMEN, on Friday morning invaded Odo-Ape community in Kabba-Bunu Local Government Area of Kogi State, killing two farmers working in their farm.

It was gathered that the farmers were shot and killed by the gunmen while they were busy working on the farm.

The killing sparked protest among youths who

blocked a federal highway that passes through the community while connecting Obajana and Lokoja.

The protesting youths demanded immediate action from the government to address the escalating security crisis and protect the lives of citizens.

It took the intervention of the security agencies to clear the road after the protest ran into hours.

Efforts to speak with Kogi

State Police Command's Public Relation Officer, SP William Ayah, over the incident on Saturday proved abortive.

Meanwhile, Kogi State governor, Ahmed Usman Ododo, has ordered an immediate crackdown on the killers of the farmers.

According to a statement issued on Saturday and signed by the Commissioner for Information and Communications, Kingsley

Fanwo, the governor directed the state security adviser to collaborate with security agencies and local vigilante groups to ensure that the perpetrators are apprehended and brought to justice.

"The government is putting all hands on deck to ensure the attackers do not escape justice," the statement read.

Governor Ododo urged residents to remain calm

and avoid reprisals, which, he warned, could lead to further losses. He expressed his condolences to the affected families and reiterated his administration's commitment to ensuring the safety of all residents.

"We sympathise with the communities affected by this unfortunate incident. Rest assured, the Ododo administration is fully committed to your security

and will stop at nothing to guarantee your safety," the statement added.

The state government also called on the public to provide information that could assist security agencies in their efforts to apprehend the culprits.

"Every life in Kogi State is important, and we need the cooperation of our people to end criminal activities," the statement emphasised.