

Again, Ondo farmers, youths, protest over alleged killing of farmers by herdsmen

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HUNDREDS of protesters consisting farmers and youths from Ajagbusi community in Igbatoro area of Akure North Local Government Area of Ondo State on Tuesday stormed the State Secretariat road in Alagbaka, protesting the killing of another three farmers in a fresh attack by gunmen suspected to be herdsmen.

The protesters, who displayed the remains of the three farmers shot dead by the armed men while going to their farms on Tuesday morning, blocked the main road leading to the governor's office in Akure.

They accused the state government of being insensitive to their plight, expressing displeasure and anger over the seemingly lackadaisical attitude to the incessant killing of farmers in the area.

The protesters, who hindered free flow of traffic around the governor's office, said no fewer than 20 farmers had been killed in the last two months.

According to the protesters, the three farmers were heading to their farms on motorcycle when the armed men stopped them, shot them and ran away.

While lamenting the inability of the government to put a stop to the incessant attacks and killings, the tra-

ditional ruler of Adeshina Community, Taiwo Samuel, described the incident as one too many.

He disclosed that the incident happened around 13/13 area of Ajagbusi farm settlement of Ala Elefosan in Akure North Local Council in the early hours of Tuesday.

He said, "We purposely brought their bodies to Alagbaka for everyone to see what we are facing and to prevent any form of denial, which we have experienced in the past.

"The killing of our people by these herdsmen is becoming too much. Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa promised us that the place would be fully secured after the last incident. With this latest development, the government must allow us to secure ourselves.

"It is disheartening that the government will continue to allow these killings to be going on. What we are certain about is that if we should defend ourselves and kill the attackers, we will be arrested and taken to Abuja."

He noted that during the late former Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu's administration, this kind of thing was not rampant, "but with the current governor, everything has gone awry. We are tired of these continuous killings; we can no longer sleep in our communities."