

Suspected gunmen kill two soldiers, others in Benue

Johnson Babajide May 22, 2025



Two soldiers and two civilians were reportedly killed in a renewed attack by suspected gunmen on Wednesday at Ijaha Ikobi in Apa Local Government Area of Benue State.

A community resident, who introduced himself as Adakole, told newsmen via telephone on Thursday that the suspected gunmen invaded the community on Wednesday.

According to him, "The incident happened around 3:30 pm on Wednesday when some residents heard sporadic gunshots within the village."

He stated that a distress call was made to security personnel, and some soldiers who responded ran into an ambush laid by the attackers.

"Two soldiers were killed in the process," he said, alleging that the attackers made away with the military's "Two (2) AK-47 rifles and one (1) SMG gun."

He identified the civilians who lost their lives in the attack as "Ocheje Ngbede Sani and Aduba Paul Ogboyi."

The Chairman of Apa LGA, Adam Ogwola, who spoke to journalists via telephone on Thursday, confirmed the attack and the killing of two soldiers and civilians.

According to him, "I received a call that there was an attack in Ikobi community in Apa LGA, and when I called some people, there was no response from them.

"Later, I heard that two soldiers were killed. This morning, they discovered the bodies of the two civilians."

Ogwola stated that more soldiers and policemen had been deployed to the community.

He also noted that the two civilian victims had been buried in accordance with the community's tradition of not keeping corpses of victims of Fulani attacks beyond 24 hours.

He added, "So, they have been buried while the bodies of the late soldiers have been moved from the community. I don't know whether they are in the mortuary in Ugbokpo or Makurdi."

Efforts to get confirmation from the acting Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, Operation Whirl Stroke, Captain Lawal Osabo, were unsuccessful as he did not pick his calls.

Similarly, calls made to the state command spokesperson, Catherine Anene, rang out, and she did not respond to messages sent to her mobile phone.