

9 killed in herdsmen, farmers' clash

NO fewer than nine persons are feared dead in a clash between Fulani herdsmen and farmers at Umuaka-eme village in Ifite-Ogwari in Ayamelum Local Government Area of Anambra State.

According to a report by the *News Agency of Nigeria*, the clash took place when the villagers tried to ward off the herdsmen whose cattle were grazing on their farmlands.

It was learnt that those allegedly killed in the fracas included one Ogo Unagwu, who was seven-months pregnant, Augustine Okafor and Chuma Okoye.

The report said a lady school teacher from Umueje community, whose name could not be ascertained, was also ambushed and shot dead by the herdsmen.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Fidelis Agbo, confirmed the story.

He said that the incident followed a scuffle between youths of Ifite-Ogwari and herdsmen during which a herdsman was allegedly killed.

He said that in a reprisal attack, the herdsmen re-organised and in an ambush, killed three persons in the area.

Agbo said the area was now calm as the police had drafted a contingent of policemen to maintain law and order.

He said that police had also started investigations into the matter.