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Fulani herdsmen kill teenager while abducting women, children

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The Delta State Police Command said on Tuesday an 18-year-old boy, Ossai Oluem, was killed by some Fulani herdsmen during an attempt to abduct him in the Ndokwa East Local Government Area of the state.

PUNCH Metro, however, learnt that the assailants were able to abduct two women and three children.

The police in a statement by its Public Relations Officer, Mr. Roland Preston, said the abducted victims had been freed.

The police said the incident occurred on Sunday after the herdsmen invaded Umuachi-Afor community, shooting sporadically.

Preston said preliminary police investigation showed that the Fulani herdsmen had abducted their victims after one Frank Odili from the community had seized a rifle from a Fulani herdsman.

It said the Fulani had insisted on only freeing their hostages if the firearm was returned to them.

The statement said, "One Honourable London Onwuka, in company with two others of Umuachi-Afor community reported at the Ashaka Police Station that unidentified suspected Fulani herdsmen invaded Umuachi-Afor Community, shooting sporadically, and in the process abducted one Florence Onwuka, 42, Chukwudi Onwuka, 15, Ugochukwu Onwuka, 13, Innocent Ndego, 20, Nwabuaku Beninchukwu, 24 and took them to an unknown destination.

"In the process, one Ossai Oluem, 18, was allegedly shot dead while large/huge sums of money were stolen by the said invaders."

The police said Odili, whose action sparked the chain of events was at large while efforts were on to arrest the Fulani herdsmen

"While measures have been put in place to forestall a breakdown of law and order in the affected area, the command appeals to the affected community to remain calm and go about their lawful business," he said.

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