

Court remands two Fulani herdsmen for Ekiti killings

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Kamarudeen Ogundele, Ado Ekiti

Two persons have been remanded by a Chief Magistrate's Court in Ado Ekiti over the May 20 night attack on Oke Ako in Ikole Ekiti Local Government Area of Ekiti State, by criminals suspected to be Fulani herdsmen.

Two persons died following the attack while three others are receiving treatment in separate private hospitals in Ikole Ekiti and Ado Ekiti.

The two suspects, Usman Salihu, 50, and Abubakar Auta, 52, were arraigned for murder and causing grievous bodily harm to some people by the police.

They were subsequently remanded in prison custody till September pending legal advice from the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Alberto Adeyemi, confirmed the development to our correspondent on Wednesday.

A resident, Grace Olofin, also told our correspondent that peace had returned to the town.

She confirmed that security agencies were still in the town to

maintain law and order.

It was learnt that one of the victims, Ayo Abejide, who had bullet pellets lodged in his head had been transferred to an undisclosed teaching hospital for a surgical operation.

Also, the councillor for Ipao-Oke Ako-Irele ward, Mr. Segun Kehinde, appealed to the people to return to the town.

The state Governor, Mr. Ayodele Fayose, had banned grazing and rearing of cattle in the state, saying those interested in cattle farming should get their own private ranches.

The governor announced this when he visited the town after the attack.

He said a bill to criminalise the movement of cattle from one location to another in the state would soon be sent to the state House of Assembly.

The governor warned that government would henceforth confiscate any cattle seen anywhere in the state apart from those in ranches created for them by their owners.

He said, "We will not leave our land for Fulani herdsmen and in a system where the leadership of the country looks the other way while our people are being killed, we will have no option but to defend ourselves by whatever means."