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NEWS

Herdsmen attack Benue community, kill five farmers

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John Charles, Makurdi

Five persons were feared dead in a renewed crisis between farmers of Idoma extraction and Fulani herdsmen at Okpale Ogege, Edumoga in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State on Tuesday.

It was reliably gathered that several other persons were critically injured.

An eyewitness, who craved anonymity, told our correspondent that the herdsmen besieged the area on Tuesday with a large number of their cows which grazed indiscriminately on farmlands in the community.



large number of cows and herdsmen grazing and destroying their farms.

“The people tried to stop them but the herdsmen resisted them and in the process attacked and inflicted many of the farmers with machete wounds.

“The people were forced to flee their farms, and later today (Wednesday) they mobilised youths of the community to chase the herdsmen out of their farms not knowing that the invaders were armed with sophisticated weapons.

“Unfortunately in the ensuing fracas, the herdsmen opened fire on the local farmers leaving about five of them dead and many sustaining varying degrees of injuries.

“As I speak with you many of the wounded have been taken to hospitals in the local government area while the remains of those found dead have been deposited at the mortuary. Many are still missing and unaccounted for.

“Many of the people have also fled their homes for fear of being killed by the well armed herdsmen.”

When contacted, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent, ASP, Moses Yamu, said he had yet to get details of the incident.

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