

Suspected herdsmen kill five in Edo

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Fulani herdsmen

Alexander Okere

Armed men, suspected to be Fulani herdsmen, have allegedly killed no fewer than five persons in Ughoha and Odiguetete communities, in the Esan South-East and the Ovia North-East Local Government Areas of Edo State.

Several persons were also said to have been injured during the attack.

It was learnt that the Ughoha incident occurred at about 7.30pm on Friday when one of the victims, identified as Collins Ojierakhi, said to be a first-year student of the Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma, was returning home from Uromi along with his friends.

They were said to have been ambushed by the herdsmen who opened fire on them. In Odigute community, the herdsmen were said to have allegedly invaded the community and shot sporadically, killing two persons in the process.

It was gathered that the activities of the herdsmen led to a protest by residents of the community at the Government House and state House of Assembly last week.

The father of the deceased student, Mr. Festus Ojierakhi, said he was informed about the death of his son by the mother of another victim of the attack.

Ojierakhi said, “I am just confused; I was actually in the house eating at about 8pm and I started asking about my son, who was not there. I was told that he went to Uromi with his friends on a motorcycle.

“It was around 9pm that the mother of my son’s friend started shouting, crying that herdsmen had killed her son. I rushed out of the house and I asked about my own son. I was told that he died too with his friend.

“We immediately sent some boys and ran to the place. When we got there, we were told that the police had come to take the corpse to the Ubiaja mortuary. I was told that my son and two others, including the friend, died. They said the other person that died was an Igbo.”

He added that he reported the matter to the area commander’s office and the police said they were investigating the matter.

But the spokesperson for the police in the state, Mr. Chidi Nwabuzor, said he was not aware of the incidents.