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Suspected herdsmen murder Imo farmer

Chidiebube Okeoma,
Owerri

THERE is anger in the Agwa community, Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State, as suspected herdsmen have allegedly murdered a septuagenarian farmer, Ozoemena Iriaka. The killing sparked off a protest in the community, as villagers kicked against the destruction of their crops by

cattle.

An indigene of the community, identified simply as Aladi, told our correspondent that the herdsmen killed the farmer, abandoned their cattle and fled.

He said the villagers woke up on Sunday to see the lifeless body of the victim by a bush path.

"The herdsmen murdered elder Ozoemena Iriaka in Obudi Agwa, Oguta Local



• Imo CP, Isaac Akinm

Government Area, when he tried to chase them away from his farm," Aladi stated.

The lawmaker representing the Oguta State Constituency in the state House of Assembly, Frank Ugboma, who visited the community, called on security agencies to bring the fleeing killers to justice.

The lawmaker pleaded with the villagers to remain calm as he would use his office to get justice for the bereaved family.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Orlando Ikeokwu, said

the police had swung into action.

He said, "Investigation into the killing has commenced. The good thing is that normalcy has returned to the community. The Commissioner of Police has given instructions that the killers must be apprehended immediately.

"Nobody can say for sure if the assailants were Fulani herdsmen or not. Investigation will uncover the irreal identities."