

news

Gunmen unleash mayhem on Ebonyi, kill four, raze houses

Edward Nnachi, Abakaliki

NO fewer than 40 houses were on Monday set ablaze by gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen in Umu-Ugadu and Obodo Ocha villages, Umuogodo-Akpu Ngbo community, in the Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

The latest attack is the second in two weeks after some suspected Fulani men unleashed mayhem in three communities of the state.

According to a reliable community source, the attackers who invaded the area at about 4am, on Monday, equally killed one native of the community.

The source, who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity, said many houses were razed down in the area by the invaders.

The source said the incident had caused panic in the area, as natives had left the area for other neighbouring communities for the safety of their lives.

"It was not a small thing this morning. They have hit our community again. This morning, they burnt down many houses. As soon as they started, I had to move my parents to Okwor area

for safety.

"In fact, my father just informed me now that he saw a vehicle carrying a dead body from the area, just passed. One person was killed in the incident, as at when we conducted a search around 9am.

"They came in into the community and started shooting intermittently and burning down

houses. It took the intervention of some of our people who came out to engage them in gun battle.

"We are suspecting Fulani herdsmen. Recently, because of the way they were dealing with farmers in the community, we are no longer comfortable with them and we asked them to leave. And two weeks ago, they were sighted in the area around

the community. So, they could be responsible for the attack," the source said.

Also, the Ebonyi State Government, on Monday, confirmed the incident, saying investigation was ongoing to unearth the attackers.

The state Commissioner for Internal Security and Border Peace, Chief Stanley Okoro-

Emegha, stated this in a telephone interview with our correspondent, saying about four persons were reportedly killed.

The commissioner said, "They said it is Agila people, but for now, nobody can say where the attackers came from. That part of Ngbo has issues with the Agila people of Benue State and so,

we are still not certain who the people that attacked are.

"So far, four people have been confirmed dead. The Army said one person died, but my men on the ground in the area, who are in the field, said another three corpses were seen, outside the one confirmed by the Army."

Speaking, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Aliyu Garba, said his men had been mobilised and deployed in the area.



•L-R: Newly-elected PDP South West Chairman, Taofeek Arapaja; Governor of Oyo State, Seyi Makinde; a former governor of Osun State, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola; and wife of a former governor of Oyo State, Mrs Mutiat Ladoja, after the announcement of Arapaja as the winner at the 2021 PDP South-West Congress in Osogbo... on Monday. Photo: Oyo State Government House

Gombe battles cholera, treats 132 cases in seven days

Chima Azubuike, Gombe

THE Gombe State Commissioner for Health, Dr Habu Dahiru, has said the state treated 132 cases of cholera in seven days.

Dahiru, during a briefing on Monday, declared Yalmatu/Deba Local Government Area of the state cholera-free.

Dahiru revealed that the declaration was in line with the guidelines of the World Health Organisation and Nigeria Centre for Disease Control.

He said, "Within seven days, 132 cases were identified, treated and managed based on the standard