

Again, gunmen kill 10 in Benue community

John Charles, Makurdi

GUNMEN again invaded a community in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State and killed no fewer than 10 people.

The attackers were reported to have unleashed terror on Olegumachi community in Agatu and burnt down houses.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the attack which happened on Tuesday evening came barely four days after three people including an aged couple were killed in the Ikpele community in the same local government.

A local source who did not

want to be mentioned told our correspondent on Wednesday that the gunmen stormed Olegumachi Tuesday evening, killed several people, and set ablaze many houses.

Confirming the incident to journalists on Wednesday in a telephone chat, the chairman of the Local Government Area, Phillip Ekenyaku, said 10 people were killed and seven houses set ablaze.

The chairman said, "Yes, it's confirmed. There was an attack. What they gave me is 10 (those killed).

"They (gunmen) were armed with sophisticated weapons, they were looting, robbing and burning houses and killed people.

"About seven houses were burnt down, they went away with many properties and animals such as goats and fowls.

Ekenyaku said he had reported the incident to police and the Department of State Security.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer for the state command, Catherine Anene, said she was yet to get a report from the Divisional Police Officer in Agatu.

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Criminals are using the bush for cover, but it was easy for us to lay in the bush and get them because we know the terrain very well," the security source said.

When contacted, the spokesperson for the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps in Osun State, Kehinde Adeleke, said the suspects were in the custody of the command.

She said, "It is true. They are in our custody. The investigation is progressing well. They may go to court on Thursday."