

8 killed in fresh attack on Agatu

From ROSE EJEMBI, Makurdi

No fewer than eight persons were feared dead yesterday in a fresh attack on two villages in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State, by suspected Fulani herdsmen.

The latest attack came on the heels of a peace meeting between the governments of Benue and Nassarawa states on the incessant attacks on Benue communities by suspended Fulani mercenaries.

Governor Gabriel Suswam and his Nasarawa State counterpart, Tanko Al-Makura along with high-powered delegation from both states, met to find a lasting solution to the nagging problem.

In a chat with newsmen yesterday evening, member representing Agatu Constituency in the state House of Assembly, Sule Audu alleged that the heavily armed gunmen suspected to be herdsmen, numbering up to 40, invaded two villages at about 11a.m yesterday with dangerous weapons.

The gunmen, according to the lawmaker, killed eight people, set ablaze houses and sacked the villages and the acting traditional ruler of Agatu (Och' Agatu).

"As I talk to you now, many of my constituent members are taking refuge in my house. The gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen sacked the two villages including that of the acting Och' Agatu."

He stated further that the invaders came through the neighbouring village of Ochichi in Apa Local Government Area instead of using the normal riverine border of Nasarawa State that had before now been their entry and exit point.

"I believe they changed their position because of the recent peace initiative brokered between the two states to keep watch over their area to avoid strange fellows using their domain as exit and entry route for the purpose of perpetrating evil.

"The attack came to us as a surprise because they changed their normal route which is the riverine border of Nasarawa and entered through Ochichi viilage of Apa that has no water boundary with the affected communities. Also speaking, immediate past chairman of Agatu Local Council, Audu Momoh, who confirmed the attack, said Ochologologwu and Enogaje villages were invaded yesterday morning.

Momoh, who, however said that no lives were lost noted that houses including property were completely razed by the armed invaders while the villagers scampered for safety.

While describing the invasion as, "unprovoked attack" Momoh said there was no basis for the suspected Fulani herdsmen to have invaded the Idoma speaking vicinity..

former CSO to the NDA

chieftain

population, both at in the Diaspora, to and united in the our collective goal. duty is to con- and persuade the Nigerian popula- the justice of our

iko Igbo chieftain is the Igbo, "contin- against the tide of suspicion, distrust rooted prejudice in ry, characters such or Nzeribe bring te affirmation to the ents that negate the Ndigbo as legitimate with legitimate aspi- their own country."

Igbo

ate Government to discriminate arrests o, dump them in without trial and ntly deport them to n-East. How could who were not tried ected for any offence of competent juris- e arrested, detained shed without trial in atic dispensation?

Igbo urges the government to imme- halt further unlawful ed deportation of nd recall those who ported. This is the that justice can be e state government forget the strategic hat Ndigbo occupy tate through their mental strides and ions to the socio- landscape of the

believe that these Igbo ported without their and indeed compen- his act is not the first happened because are Nigerians and e deported in their ntry.