

22 dead as herdsmen raid Kogi communities

From **Fred Itua**, Abuja

AN armed group, alleged to be Fulani herdsmen, has reportedly killed more than 22 persons in an early morning attack in nine different communities in Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The herdsmen, who raided the communities were said to have carried out the attack at the wee hours of Monday, November 9, killing 22 and wounding several others, while hundreds are said to be missing.

Briefing House of Representatives press corps yesterday at the National Assembly, representatives of concerned members of the affected communities,

led by Mr. Usman Ibrahim and Silas Ahiaba, stated that the people of the affected communities are in distress, having been chased away from their ancestral lands, a situation that requires urgent intervention of the state and federal governments.

Addressing the newsmen, Ibrahim said: "We are all talking from the position of distress. As we speak, our fathers, grandfathers, parents and loved ones have been chased away from their ancestral homes where they have existed for over 200 years.

"As the early hours of Monday, the communities were greeted with the invasion by heavily-armed Fulani herdsmen who killed

and maimed so many. As at today, 22 people have been confirmed dead, several others either injured or missing. Right now, we are refugees in our own land."

Asked if there has been any response or intervention from the state government, the visibly emotional bureaucrat, who is also a committee clerk in the National Assembly, described the response from the state government as 'skeletal with little or no effect'.

"The state government has been fully briefed on this matter. But whether they have been able to make any inroad is still not certain because our people are still displaced. As at yesterday, a few policemen went to the

places but no form of arrest has been made so far. There has not been any fruitful response from governments at all levels. We want the Federal Government to intervene and return our families home in one piece. That's the humble appeal we are making", he said.

The affected communities are: Agojeju, Ikpoba, Ojeh, Ajomojayi, Ajadaji, Idochi, Ojiyanawo, Ulaja and Oganenigu respectively.

All affected communities are in Dekin/Bassa Federal Constituency, which is currently being represented by Benjamin Ikani Okolo in the Eighth House of Representatives while Senator Abdulrahman Abubakar represents Kogi East in the Senate.