

1 killed, 6 kidnapped as herdsmen attack Enugu community

From **Geoffrey Anyanwu**, Enugu

SUSPECTED Fulani militia have allegedly attacked Aguamade community in Eha-Amufu Isi-Uzo local government of Enugu state, killing one and abducting six others, including a woman.

The abductors are allegedly demanding a ransom of N10 million for the release of the abducted seven.

The incident came barely two weeks after another community, Mgbuji, in the same Eha-Amufu, was attacked and four natives killed by suspected herdsmen.

A community source told newsmen, yesterday, that the latest onslaught on the town happened around 7pm, last Wednesday, at Pipeline along Eha-Amufu-Ikem road.

He gave the name of the killed person as Odo Francis Ugochukwu, said

to be a commercial motorcycle (okada) operator, and those abducted as Mercy Olinye, Joseph Ede, Joachin Odo, Odanxu Ala, Chidubem Nwokocha, and Chukwuma Odo.

The community source

said that one of the natives who escaped from the assailants disclosed that Francis was killed because he recognised the attackers, having carried some of them on his Okada as passengers before.

Meanwhile, the source said that out of the N10 million being demanded by the abductors, the community was only able to raise N230,000 which they paid to them on Friday.

Ekiti: Abducted farmer regains freedom after N2m ransom

From **Priscilla Ediare**, Ado-Ekiti

A farmer, Alhaji Jimoh Olo-dan, who was kidnapped in Iyemero Ekiti, Ikole Local Government Area of Ekiti State, on Friday night, has regained his freedom.

The farmer was said to have been found inside the forest around 5.30am, yesterday, by a search party comprising security agencies and local hunters.

Olo-dan was abducted on Friday, at Elegure farmstead near Iyemero, after bandits numbering 18 had stormed the community in desperate search for the successful farmer.

The bandits later called, on

Saturday, and demanded N30 million ransom from the family.

A source confided in newsmen in Ado Ekiti, yesterday, that the farmer was released due to concerted efforts by local hunters, Vigilante Group of Nigeria, Oodua Peoples Congress and Amotekun Corps.

He said the N2 million paid was an instalment, adding that the security men were able to tighten noose on the bandits thorough combing of the sprawling forest between Ekiti-Kogi-Kwara borders.

"The family had, on Sunday, paid N2 million out of the ransom demanded while negotiation would continue after getting the first tranche of the

money.

"But the search team in Iyemero Ekiti, who went on combing the entire forest to the borders of Ekiti with Kogi and Kwara states went deep into the forest and pursued them into the night.

"Upon realising that the search party was closing in on them, they abandoned the man and ran away.

"We thank God that the man was released unhurt and he was in sound health," he said.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Ekiti Command, ASP Sunday Abutu, said the police led the search team that recovered the farmer from the bandits.