

From **Rose Ejembi,**  
Makurdi

**NO** fewer than 11 persons were killed in two separate attacks in three communities of Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State, on Sunday night.

Daily Sun gathered that while nine persons were killed in a communal clash between Aila and Adagbo communities, two other persons were allegedly killed by suspected herdsmen in Odugbeho Community.

It would be recalled that Aila and Adagbo communities had been at daggers drawn for many years now with the state government and some other prominent personalities in Benue mediating at some point.

One of our local sources from Agatu who simply gave his name as Adamu said many other persons were also injured in the latest clash between the two communities.

"We don't know the cause of this latest attack, but all we can see is that before anyone can even say anything, nine people

# 11 killed in communal clash, gunmen attack in Benue

have been killed on both sides. Aila and Adagbo people have been clashing for some years now," Adamu said.

It was also gathered that the same night which was exactly one week after an attack on Odugbeho, some gunmen suspected to be herdsmen, again, stormed the same community and started shooting sporadically killing two persons and burning down 21 houses.

However, a military source, who did not want to be

named, insisted that the latest attack on Odugbeho was carried out by some local criminals.

The attackers were said to have attacked Odugbeho around 5pm, on Sunday, in a Guerilla manner and shot in all directions, while also setting many houses afire.

A source from the community, who pleaded anonymity, said the people had prior knowledge about

the attack and alerted security agencies as well as got the youths ready for defence.

"And true to the information we got, the invaders stormed our community at about 5pm and started shooting, while also burning houses. Our boys tried to repel them, but had to beat a retreat due to the superior fire power of the invaders who also outnumbered our boys."

Meanwhile, Chairman of the local government, Sule

Adohi, has confirmed the attacks, saying nine people were killed in the Aila/Adagbo communal clash, while two other persons were killed and 21 houses burnt in the herdsmen invasion of Odugbeho.

Contacted, Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Catherine Anene, said she was yet to be briefed about any attack on Agatu communities at the time of this report.

## SWAT didn't abduct anybody in our community -Ogun village head

By **Christopher Oji**

**THE** village head of Abaren, Mr Olukayode Akoni and Baale in Council of the Ogun State community in Obafemi Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State has denied any incident of kidnapping or abduction in his community.

The village head and the council of chiefs also denied the report of insecurity in the community, saying that the reports were the handiwork of criminals, who were planning to foment trouble in the com-

munity.

They, however, called on the Inspector-General of Police and the State Commissioner of Police, to thoroughly investigate the allegations of abduction, and attack in Abaren.

The baale of the village, Olukayode Akoni, has therefore, advised the general public to disregard any report of kidnapping in Abaren in recent time

He said: "What happened recently was that policemen from the Special Weapon and

Tactics (SWAT) from Abuja came to the town and made some arrests in connection with a petition against some residents in the town.

"They arrested five people, including Olatunji Ogundimu, Azeez Ogunbukola, Mustapha Jinadu and Isiaka Alabenu. The fifth person escaped, but the police took four of them to Abuja for interrogation.

"The policemen made the necessary entry with the local police and even visited traditional rulers in the area before and after the arrest.

There was a petition against Olatunji Ogundimu and the police came to arrest him, and he was taken to Abuja, interrogated and released after an undertaking was signed that there would not be any problem in Abaren."

"The reports of kidnapping in Abaren are all lies. The police in Mowe and the Area command in Obafemi Owode LGA have all the details. The petition to the police was as a result of the attack on Abaren on April 22, 2021, by over 50 armed men, who were aided by a senior policeman in the