

Bandits kill 7 in Benue, Plateau

From **Rose Ejembi,**
Makurdi and **Gyang**
Bere, Jos

NO fewer than four people, including a nursing mother and her three children, have

been reportedly murdered by suspected militia in Okokolo community, Apopogolo area of Ado Local Government Area of Benue State, on Monday.

Sources said the attackers, who stormed the community in a guerilla manner, came from the Ngbo community of Ebonyi State to commit the crime.

Chairman Ado local government area, James Oche, who confirmed the killing in a telephone conversation with journalists, yesterday, disclosed that a child of less than one year, two children of less than five years and their mother were murdered and their house burnt down by the invaders.

"You know that we have been having hostilities along the border between Ngbo and Akpogolo over time. We have always experienced these guerilla attacks. You know the history of the crisis between

Ngbo and Ohaukwu, and how we have always cried out that there should be a police presence in the whole of that area.

"Our military (Operation Whirl Stroke) and other security agencies have been overstretched. The Ebonyi government has established a police post and we are appealing to the Benue State government to do the same," Oche said.

The council boss explained further that the crisis occasioned by border dispute and herdsmen attacks had resulted in the displacement of over 1,000 persons in the council area.

He, therefore, appealed to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) as well as the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to come to the aid of the displaced persons.

When contacted, the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Catherine Anene, said she was yet to be briefed on the attack.

Also, no fewer than three people were brutally killed, yesterday, when suspected Fulani herdsmen invaded the Jebbu Miango community in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The attack took place when the Deputy Chairman, Senate Committee on Defence and Senator representing Plateau North, Istifanus Gyang, visited the community to condole with the people.

mishap

to me now are very sketchy. I am still expecting a detailed report of what actually happened and the people involved," he said.

death in Edo

ian driver were involved in the accident. The policemen had stopped to greet somebody when a trailer that was passing fell on them," he said.

Investigation revealed that the deceased family members had been contacted by the police authorities.

Abduct 5 in Rivers

firmed the incident to reporters, disclosed that the victims were kidnapped after Onne River, in a 10-passenger speedboat.

The source further disclosed that the victims were two females and three males, adding that the incident had been reported to the Marine Police, in Port Harcourt, by the boat driver, while efforts

were being made to rescue the victims.

A community source disclosed that the boat was on its way from Bonny to Port Harcourt. The security source, who did not want to be mentioned, said that five of the passengers were abducted, while the other passengers were allowed to continue the journey to Port Harcourt.