

Herdsmen kill man, wife, 5 others in 3 Benue communities

From **Scholastica Onyeka** Makurdi

GUNMEN suspected to be herdsmen militia, have killed seven people, including a man and his wife, in separate attacks on three communities in Guma Local Government Area (LGA) of Benue State.

Daily Sun gathered that while four people were killed in Hirnyam village, one was killed in Governor Samuel Ortom's hometown, Ortom village, while two others were killed in Semaka village, all of Guma LGA. The incident, according to locals, happened last Friday.

A source from the area, Mr Jonah Iorundu, told Daily Sun that the man who was killed was a Catechist at St. Peter Catholic Church, Hirnyam.

"In their usual pattern, the herdsmen will shoot people and also use cutlass to cut them. They shot the Catechist, his wife and one other woman, and after shooting them, they used cutlass on them," he said.

He said their bodies were recovered from the bush and have been buried by their relatives. When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Benue State Command, Catherine Anene, said she was yet to get information on the incident.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of Guma LGA, Mr Mike Uba, has confirmed the killings, describing it as sad. Uba, who spoke through the Security Secretary, Guma LG Council, Mr Christopher Waku, said seven people have been killed in separate attacks on three communities in Guma LGA in the last one week.

"Four people died in the attack in Hirnyam; a Catechist, Dominic Dajo, his wife, and two others.

"In fact, he was in his house ironing his clothes so he can

prepare to attend Mass. When he heard gunshots, he came out and was even telling someone that they, gunmen, had killed two people already, not knowing it was also going to

be his own death. While they were in the house, the wife rushed out and was killed, and while he was also trying to run away, they also killed him. Again, one woman from

Ortom village (the governor's village) was killed, and on Thursday, two people were killed in Semaka village, making it seven."

He said he could not reach

the police on time as the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) had been transferred and he was yet to get the phone number of the new one posted to his area.

Lagos-Ibadan Expressway accident claims 3 lives

NO fewer than three people were confirmed dead while two others sustained varying degrees of injuries in an accident involving a Sinotruk and a Toyota car, at Saapade, on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, last Saturday.

The Public Education Officer, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Ogun State, Mrs. Florence Okpe, told newsmen in Abeokuta, yesterday, that the accident, which occurred at 6.25pm, on Saturday, involved a car with registration number KSF122 FB and a truck marked FZE 840 G.

The FRSC spokesperson explained that the accident was caused by speeding, which led to loss of control on the part of the Toyota car driver who rammed into the moving truck from the rear.

"A total of five people were involved, which comprised four men and one woman; two people were injured while three deaths were recorded," she said.

Okpe stated that the injured victims were taken to Victory Hospital, Ogere, for medical attention, while the deceased were deposited at FOS Morgue, Ipara in Remo

North local government area of Ogun.

Meanwhile, the State Sector Commander of FRSC, Ahmed Umar, sympathised with the families of the victims. Umar

reiterated the dangers of speeding, especially during the rainy season where visibility is poor, advising motorists to drive defensively and obey traffic rules and regulations.

10-year-old boy kills cousin with grandpa's gun

From **Femi Folaranmi**, Yenagoa

TRAGEDY struck over the weekend at the coastal community, Otuan, Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, when a 10-year-old boy accidentally killed his cousin with his grandfather's gun.

Investigations revealed that the children had gone out to the bush to pick bush mangoes, popularly known as Ogbono, and came back to the house.

One of the children, a sister to the boy who shot the gun, had requested the boys to go inside the room and get a cutlass to cut the

bush mango. Inside the room, which belonged to their grandfather who is a retired soldier, the boys saw a gun where it was hidden and started fiddling with it, pointing it at the deceased.

The deceased, who was 12-year-old, was heard shouting, "put the gun away" when a shot exploded and hit him. He was rushed to a patent medicine store to get first aid treatment while arrangements were underway to get a boat to take him to the hospital, but it was too late.

A source in the community said it was an unfortunate incident which has thrown the Otuan community into

mourning.

"The boy who shot the gun and the deceased are cousins. The boy's grandfather is a retired soldier who had a gun in the house.

"They went to get a cutlass and saw a gun, which he took and pointed it at his cousin playing.

"The bullet went off and hit his cousin who is now dead. It is a tragedy. The whole family is in mourning," he said.

Findings indicated that the police had not been briefed about the incident at the time of filing this report following discussions within the family to treat it as a family matter.

PSC approves 6 months salary for police recruits

From **Molly Kilete**, Abuja

THE Police Service Commission (PSC) has approved the payment of six months salaries for recruits of 2021/2022, who passed out of the police colleges and worked in different police commands and formations.

The PSC said the payment had become necessary given the untold hardship the police Constables were going

through. It also said it took the decision in the interest of national security and the need to amicably resolve the lingering issues of recruitment between the commission and the Nigeria Police Force.

PSC Head, Public Relations and Information, Ikechukwu Ani, in a statement, further noted that the decision followed outcry and appeals from Nigerians that

the 2021/2022 police recruits who are yet to be enrolled into the Federal Government's Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) and who had not received salaries, six months after they passed out from the police colleges and duly posted to police commands and formations for active police work, are not made victims of the face off between the commission and the Ni-

geria Police Force.

The statement said the commission's approval for the enrolment of 1,007 recruited personnel into the Nigeria Police Force in 2021/2022 into the IPPIS payment platform, for the purposes of salaries and other emoluments, has been conveyed to the Accountant General of the Federation.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)