Suspected herdsmen kill 3 in fresh attack in Benue

From **Scholastica Onyeka,** Makurdi

THREE underage boys have been killed by gunmen suspected to be herdsmen at Imatom, Ukemberegya-Tswarev council ward in Logo Local Government Area of Benue State.

The boys were killed last Saturday evening, at about 9pm, in their house, when the suspected herders invaded the community at a time most villagers were already sleeping.

One of the community members, Hon. Jonathan Tyonongo, in a telephone chat, said in the last couple of weeks, herdsmen have been coming with their cows to graze on their farms. "They eat and destroy our crops and when you say anything, they kill you there or go back, regroup and come for attack."

Tyonongo said the acts have become worrisome for residents, especially farmers in the community. He lamented that the three deceased were young, between the age of 13 to 15 years, whose lives were cut down by marauding herdsmen and have been deposited at NKST mortuary, in Logo LGA. He called on the state governor, Rev Fr Hyacinth Alia, to come to their aid by sending security agencies to safeguard the lives and properties of the people.

He also expressed concerns that the government was yet to reinstate the elected officers; chairmen and councillors, in the 23 local governments, saying the development has hindered them from passing prompt information to the right quarters for prompt action. He urged the governor to reinstate them "or better still, appoint a caretaker chairmen to enable us know who to call when we are in trouble."

A community leader, Mr Joseph Anawa, also lamented the spate of renewed attacks by herdsmen militia on the people of Gaambe-Tiev, especially Ukemberagya communities in Logo LGA of Benue State, adding that it has taken an alarming dimension.

"The people are attacked on their farms, in their homes, and waylaid and murdered on the roads. The attacks have continued unabated and, then, yesterday, Saturday, 14/10/23, at about 9pm, three young men, Tertsea Terkimbi Adagundu, Tertsea Mkposu and Mimidoo Umburga, were killed by Fulani militia herdsmen at Imatom village Square, near Chembe, Ukemberagya, Logo Local Government, Benue State.

"All these renewed attacks and killing without any provocation are aimed at displacing the peasant farmer, in order to pave way for cattle to graze on their crops which are yet to be harvested. We are calling on state and federal governments to, as a matter of urgency, deploy security to secure the area. If security is stationed at Chembe village, Iorza settlement and Jootar village, it will go a long way in providing security for the people," he said.

Decomposing body of missing ex-seminarian found in Enugu community

From **Jude Chinedu,** Enugu

VILLAGERS have found the decomposing body of a former seminarian who was reported missing in Imilike community, Udenu Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Sources in the village said the deceased, identified as Paschal Ike, was last seen last Wednesday.

However, three days after he went missing, his dead body was discovered at Alor Uno, Nsukka Local Government Area of the state. Those who found his body claimed that he was killed by flooding.

A family source said: "Paschal left home about three days ago and did not return. He was unofficially declared missing until his dead body was washed up by flooding in the Alor Uno community.

"Already, his remains, which have been evacuated, were deposited at the Bishop Shanahan Hospital at Nsukka Local Government Area of the state. The matter has already been reported to the police and we are expecting the police to conclude investigations on the circumstances surrounding his death."

The relation equally revealed that he was healthy when he was last seen three days before his death, adding that he was frustrated out of seminary school some years ago.

They added that life has not been rosy for him since he left seminary school.

It was equally gathered that there was a downpour at the university town of Nsukka, last Thursday, just two days before his body was found.

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