

Herdsmen kill 13 in renewed Benue attacks, 5 others missing

From Scholastica
Hir, Makurdi

NOT fewer than 13 people were killed in two separate renewed attacks on Agatu and Gwer West Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Benue State by gunmen suspected to be herdsmen militia.

Daily Sun gathered that the attackers marauding as herdsmen attacked the Egwuma village in Agatu LGA, on Sunday and hacked their victims without provocation. It was also gathered that herdsmen attacked villagers who were returning from their farms in Gwer West LGA, on Sunday evening, killed one person, injured another while five people were still missing.

The lawmaker representing Agatu State Constituency in the Benue State House of Assembly, Godwin Edoh, confirmed the incident. Speaking to newsmen on the phone in Makurdi, yesterday, Edoh said: "Yes, there was an attack in Egwuma and 12 people were killed. We are tired of this problem, and that is why I'm complaining."

He urged the government to be decisive about what to do concerning the killings in the area.

"It's so porous. The Ogbumogbo, Ejima and all those areas down to Ikpele, those villages have been deserted for close to one year. So it's like a Fulani colony. What they do is that they come over with their cattle in the morning, and they stay there to graze until they want to go back. They come back there when they want because the people have left the villages and the government has done nothing about it".

He lamented that peace

has eluded his people, most of whom are IDPs and are still staying in camps. He urged the government to match words with action for peace to return to the place.

In a related development, Daily Sun also gathered that herdsmen attacked villagers who were returning from their farms in Gwer West LGA of the state. A youth leader, who escaped from the incident, Cheghza Igbasue, explained that the attack took place at Tse Iyo in Senge Council Ward of

Gwer West LGA.

He said: "On July 14, 2024, armed herders attack and killed Mr Ikyumbu Aondowase, 30 years, and Mr Achin Terzungwe, who is 45 years, was wounded badly and taken to Naka for treatment, both of Tse Utser in Senge council ward".

He said while they were coming back to Agagbe through Tse Iorbogo, the armed herders had already ambushed the bad portion of the road and were waiting for who

to kill. He stated that the herders started shooting at them as soon as they got close, and while he survived, "Mr Ikyumbu Aondowase was killed and Mr Achin Terzungwe was badly wounded and five other people were still missing."

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Benue State Command, SP Catherine Anene, confirmed the attack on Agatu, adding that five people were killed. He, however, said he was not aware of the incident in Gwer West.

Enigie/Oba of Benin suit to start afresh

From Tony Osauzo,
Benin

THE suit filed by suspended Enigie (Dukes), led by Prof. Gregory Akenzua, Duke of Evbuobanosa and Chief Edomwonyi Ogiegbaen, Duke of Egbalen/Siluko, challenging their suspension from office by the Oba of Benin, Oba Ewuare II, yesterday, suffered a setback.

The case is now to start de novo (afresh) on October 17, with a new judge taking over the hearing due to posting within

Journalists barred from court

the state judiciary. Justice Peter Akhihero presided over the case initially, but it would now be heard by M.N Asemota.

One of the defence counsels, Samson Osagie, who spoke to journalists yesterday, said the posting within the state judiciary led to the transfer of judges from different judicial divisions.

"The case was adjourned to October 17, when it will start afresh because of posting within the Edo State Judiciary, lead-

ing to transfer of judges from different judicial divisions. Today, Court 6 that is handling the matter has indicated that as a new judge, the matter will have to start de novo, what that means is that it has to start afresh. This is so because it was not the judge that was handling it before that is now handling the matter, and that is the position of the law.

"Nothing happened today (Monday) in terms of proceed-

Niger Republic jailbreak: Fear grips border towns, NIS on red alert

By Christopher Oji

THE Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) has been placed on red alert following last Thursday's jailbreak in Niger Republic, in which hundreds of terrorists, criminals, and drug traffickers had escaped from the Koutoukale Prison.

Presently, there is palpable fear in Nigeria border towns with Niger Republic, over concerns that criminal elements, especially ter-

rorists, may escape into Nigeria, to perpetuate their evil acts.

However, the NIS has placed their men on red alert, to prevent terrorists and criminal escapees from entering into Nigeria.

In a circular signed by the Acting Deputy Comptroller General, NIS, MC Oki, the Comptroller General stated that, "the Comptroller of Commands and officers of formations along Niger-Nigeria borders are instructed to

be on red alert with intention of ensuring that you track all suspicious movements and arrest any such prison escapees and report same to the service".

He noted that the circular became very necessary as the suspected terrorists and other criminals escapees may sneak into Nigeria to join other terrorist gangs to continue to perpetrate mayhem in the country.

However, an NIS officer told Daily Sun that there were still