

Barau Jibrin, who presided.

"This is about procedure.

Ekong, also tried to protest the

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# Herdsmen kill agro rangers commander in Benue

From **Scholastica Hlr,**  
Makurdi

**GUNMEN** suspected to be herdsmen have killed the Commander, Agro Rangers, Nigeria Security Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Benue State Command, DSC James Okoh.

The Command's Public Relations Officer, Superintendent of Corps, Mike Ejelikwu, confirmed the death to newsmen in Makurdi, on Wednesday.

Ejelicwu said the incident took place on Monday.

He said the officer was killed during a gun duel with some group of armed herdsmen in Shaapera community, Gwer West Local Government Area, LGA of the state.

He, however, said there were casualties on the part of the militia, but lost only one agro ranger, who incidentally was the commander of the operation.

He, however, said the command was in touch with families and have commiserated with them over the loss. While describing the killing as one too many, the command's PRO said it will not deter the command from carrying out its constitutional mandate of providing security for every law-abiding citizen residing within the state.

He said NSCDC has a specialised squad called the agro rangers located across Gwer

West, Logo, Apa, Kwande, Guma, among other local governments to provide security for agro allied investment, be it animal husbandry or crop production.

He said the body of the deceased has been taken to the mortuary at the Benue State University Teaching Hospital (BSUTH), Makurdi.

Speaking, uncle of the de-

ceased agro ranger, Nicholas Igbabe, said his brother was tortured and brutally killed in Shaapera village in Gwer East LG.

He said the type of killing is becoming too much in the state and called on the state government to intervene, to curtail the menace.

The heartbroken uncle said: "We were told that he went

for a special assignment at Shaapera village. It was there that herdsmen killed him in an exchange of gun battles. They confirmed that they were able to kill up to 10 of them, but, unfortunately, out of the four civil defence guys, one, which is my brother, was gunned down and others escaped."

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline)

## Edo court joins BTC in suit against Oba of Benin

•We've no hand in case -Govt

From **Tony Osauzo,**  
Benin

**THE** Edo State High Court, Benin, yesterday, joined the Benin Traditional Council (BTC) as a party in a suit instituted by suspended (Enigie) Dukes in Benin, against Omo N'Oba N'Edo, Uku Akpolokpolo, Ewuare II, Oba of Benin.

Two suspended Enigie (Dukes) of Evbuobanosa and Egbaen Siluko Dukedoms in Benin Kingdom, Professor Gregory Akenzua and Chief Edomwonyi Ogiegbaen, had, on behalf of others, sued the Oba of Benin, challenging their suspension from office. The duo, on behalf of others, claimed that only the state Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, who pronounced them suspended for rebelling against the monarch, could remove them from their positions.

Ruling in a motion, yesterday, Justice Peter Akhihiero, granted the first Defendant to include the Benin Traditional Council as the third defendant in the suit marked, B/250os/2023, while Oba Ewuare II and Edo State Government, are the first and second defendants, respectively.

The ruling followed an application filed by the second defendant's lead Counsel, Prof. Yemi Akinseye-George (SAN), Prof. Edoba Omoregie and his team against the Claimants, Prof. Gregory Akenzua, and Edomwonyi Ogiegbaen, who both took the Oba of Benin to court over their suspension as Dukes of Evbuobanosa and Egbaen Siluko Dukedoms in Edo South Senatorial District in 2023.

Justice Peter Akhihiero directed parties in the suit, Edo State Government represented

by the state Attorney General and State Commissioner for Justice, Oluwale Iyamu (SAN), Oba Ewuare II, Prof. Gregory Akenzua and Edomwonyi Ogiegbaen, who were both represented by their Counsel, led by Dr. Osagie Obayuwana, who had objected to the motion through the Counsel of Oba Ewuare II, to amend their relevant documents in the case to reflect the decision.

While other parties in the suit aligned with the position of Oba Ewuare II Counsel to join Benin Traditional Council in the suit, the claimants, Prof. Gregory Akenzua and Edomwonyi Ogiegbaen, through their counsel, Dr Obayuwana, prayed the court not to list the Benin Traditional Council as a party in the suit and urged the court to award cost against the Oba of Benin, in favour of the claimants.

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