

Herdsman kill six persons in Benue community

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From **Scholastica Hir**, Makurdi

Gunmen suspected to be militia masquerading as herders have killed six persons in two separate attacks on communities in Agatu Local Government (LG), Benue State.

Our correspondent gathered that while one person was killed in Iwari community, five others were murdered in Olegagbane community of the same LGA last Friday, August 23, 2024.

A native of the area who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of being attack, told newsmen that armed herdsmen have been targeting rural dwellers in Agatu, killing them in their farms and homes.

He said the armed invaders attacked Iwari community in Agatu LGA, killing one person and injuring several others, while on Friday, August 23, 2024, they also attacked the Olegagbane community, killing five persons.

Chairman of Agatu LGA, Phillip Ebenyakwu confirmed the incidents and expressed concern over the ongoing violent killings in the area.

"It's true, the situation has been confirmed. The attackers come, kill, steal, loot, and then flee. I don't know their motives, but these attacks are unbearable. I am in communication with security agencies, and they are working on it."

Ebenyakwu also spoke about the challenges of managing the displaced people from the affected communities, noting that over 2,000 people have been displaced from at least seven, possibly nine, villages.

"The number of displaced people is overwhelming, though the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) did provide some relief materials, it is not sufficient".

Benue State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Catherine Anene, in a text message said she was not aware of the attacks.