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Suspected herdsmen kill farmer, policeman in Edo

January 29, 2020 Cajetan Mmuta



The menace constituted by gunmen in parts of Edo State appeared to be taking a dangerous dimension as suspected herdsmen at the weekend killed a farmer and a policeman in Owan community, Ovia North-East Local Government Area of the state.

New Telegraph learnt that the unidentified farmer was killed last Saturday by herdsmen.

Already members of the community had sent a distress call to the police to help retrieve the body of the deceased.

Sadly, the rampaging herdsmen were said to have fired shots at the police, killing one of them in the process.

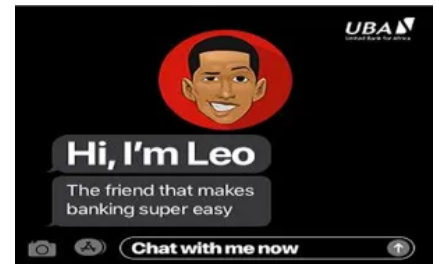
A close relation of the late farmer was also said to have been hit by bullets fired by the herdsmen.

Members of the community were forced to block the Bénin-Akure highway to protest the killings and sought government attention to the crisis.

Motorists plying the road were stranded for several hours during the protest.

One of the protesters, who gave his name as Moses, said herdsmen in the bush have been killing and raping women in their community while their crops had also been destroyed by the herdsmen.

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"They killed our person in the bush. We called in the police so that we can retrieve the body, but they attacked again and killed a policeman. The government should come to our aid.

"Herdsmen are terrorising us. We need help so that we can go to our farms."

Edo State police spokesman, DSP Chidi Nwabuzor, when contacted said the policeman did not die.

He said the policeman and other injured persons were receiving treatment in the hospital and that investigation on the case had commenced.

Farmers at Igbanke community in Orhionmwon Local Government also protested the destruction of their crops by herdsmen.

The farmers, who protested to Bénin, the state capital, said they could no longer enter their farms.

They alleged that yams, cassava and other crops were used to feed cows after which the farmlands were set ablaze by the herdsmen to enable fresh grasses to grow.

An elder of Igbanke, Mr. James Iguando, said: "We are afraid, we cannot take laws into our hands. We don't have plantain, yams and others again. We are now hungry. Fulani herdsmen feed their cows with our produce.

Nwabuzor said the police had received petition on the issue and were working on the matter.

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