

Herders sack Ebonyi-Benue border communities, kill 30, raze houses

Uchenna Inya and Kenneth Ofoma

...murder four in Enugu

Armed men yesterday murdered about 30 people in three communities in Ebonyi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

This was as gunmen also killed four people at Mgbuji Ehamufi community in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area of Enugu State.

The affected three communities in Ebonyi State - Ndiobasi, Odoke and Obakotara - have common boundaries with Ardo Local Government Area of Benue State.

The gunmen, who residents described as herders, invaded the communities from Benue State at 3am.

Many people were attacked with machetes and were currently receiving treatment at the Federal University Teaching Hospital Abakaliki 2 (FETHA) and a health centre close to the scene of the incidents, AMURT.

AMURT made a post through its social media handle on the matter. It reads: "Terrible scenes at Ohagelode Health Centre this morning. An attack on an Izzi village inside Benue State, allegedly by herders, resulted in many casualties. Many were carried all the way to Ohagelode Health Centre."

"The Uloanwu Ambulance was called and 11, six adults and five children, were transported to AEFUTHA in Abakaliki. Sadly two children already died after reaching AEFUTHA. An AMURT team of doctors, led by Dr. Omogo, the MD of AMURT, has rushed to Ohagelode. We are trying to support the wounded carried to AEFUTHA."



Some of the victims



Emegha said the measure was to forestall possible spill over of the attack to neighbouring villages in Izzi and Ebonyi local government areas.

He said: "The Ebonyi State government has observed with dismay the invasion of Nwori Ndi-Obasi village in Ado Local Government Area of Benue State in the early hours of today, Sunday, 30th May, 2021. The unfortunate incident was perpetrated by suspected herders who ruthlessly attacked unsuspecting inhabitants of the village killing, maiming and had burnt down several houses."

"The concern of the state government is, however, heightened against the backdrop that the victims of the attack in the affected village are predominantly made up of people of Izzi extraction in Izzi Local Government Area who are indigenes of Benue State."

"To forestall possible spill-over of the attack to the neighbouring villages of Okwofurrike, Odoke and Ohabuleodo respectively, in Izzi and Ebonyi local government areas, Ebonyi State government effectively mobilised and dispatched a combined team of security agencies and members of Ebubeagu Security Outfit to ensure that peace and normalcy is restored in the area."

Meanwhile, tension enveloped Mgbuji Ehamufi community in Isi-Uzo Local Government Area of Enugu State at the weekend, following the invasion and slaughtering of four members of the community by suspected herders.

Sources said the victims were killed in the early hours of Friday although some people put the casualty figure at nine.

Trouble started when the herders were stopped from cutting down an economic tree to feed their cattle.

Sources told journalists that the interruption led to heated argument between the community members and the herders.

It was learnt that the community members succeeded in pursuing the herders and their cattle from further destruction of the economic tree.

However, the herders later regrouped and attacked the community killing about four people.

Sources said that the herders later escaped with their animals.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Daniel Ndukwe, told journalists that the state Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Ndatsu Aliyu, had already ordered discreet investigation to unravel the cause of the attack and apprehend the culprits.

He said: "The commissioner has ordered the intensification of already launched discreet investigation to unravel the mystery behind their death as well as identify and arrest the assailants."

Gunmen kill pregnant woman in Nasarawa

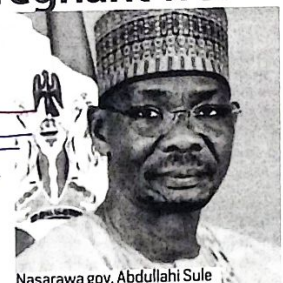
Cheke Emmanuel
LAFIA

Gunmen have killed a pregnant woman at Abebe village in Agaza District of Keana Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Abebe, the hometown of the leader of the Tiv people of Nasarawa State and President of the Tiv Development Association (TIDA), Comrade Peter Ahema, was attacked midnight on Saturday leading to the displacement of inhabitants of the community and neighbouring villages.

The attackers, armed with sophisticated weapons, opened fire on the villagers and caused pandemonium as men, women and children scrambled for safety.

Ahema alleged that the attacks and killing of Tiv people of Nasarawa State in the last two months were



Nasarawa gov, Abdullahi Sule

the Tiv people to involve civilised ways of addressing the issues rather than take undue advantage of the insecurity in the southern part of the state to achieve an agenda detrimental to the unity, peace and security of the state.

He said: "His Excellency, Governor Abdullahi Sule, means well for the state. He is doing his best to protect lives and property of the citizens but it appears some people are bent on sabotaging his efforts."

"He is a man of peace and we trust he will not succumb to the pressure to allow the annihilation of the Tiv people under his watch."

The Tiv leader alleged that the Abebe village had been under threats of attack by some farmers of Alago extraction from Obi town in Obi Local Government Area of the state whose efforts to forcibly takeover some hectares of farmland belonging to the Tiv farmers of the community had met stiff resistance.

targeted at chasing them out of the state by some forces.

He reiterated his appeal to Governor Abdullahi Sule not to allow the planned annihilation of the Tiv people succeed under his watch as the chief security officer of Nasarawa State.

Ahema condemned the killings and destruction of the Tiv people and urged any group or any ethnic nationality with grievances against