

② Scores missing as gunmen attack Benue community, kill over 40

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No fewer than 40 people have been reportedly killed with many others missing when armed bandits and herdsmen jointly launched a deadly attack on Ayati community in

Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State.

Reports said scores of residents including women and children have fled the area to safety in the wake of the dusk attack.

An eye witness, Mr. Ahangba Ayati, told Saturday Telegraph that "The attack was carried out by

a combined force of armed herdsmen and local bandits at about 5pm Thursday, adding that he lost three of his siblings to the attack, adding that the casualty figure would likely increase as many residents are still unaccounted for.

Ayati disclosed that the attack was led by one Anyôgô, a suspected local bandit adding that some of those killed were worshippers of Christians of Saint Christopher's Catholic Church, Ayati while others were traders who came to trade at the community owned market before the invaders struck.

"So far we have recovered about 40 corpses, the casualty could be more than that as more bodies have been recovered. Three of my siblings were among those killed."

But in a post on his Facebook page, another native of Ukum community, Mr. Abraham Waroh, said: "Over 40 people were killed in Ayati yesterday (Thursday) evening. This is the same place where people were killed previously which led to a protest that was later hijacked by hoodlums.

"After such incidents, one would have expected the government to ensure a strong security presence in Ayati to prevent further killings. Instead, the government formed committees to look into the crisis. I have never witnessed such poor handling of a security issue in my entire life".

The Benue State Command of the Nigeria Police confirmed the attack via its spokesperson, Catherine Sewuese Anene.

The PPRO said, "I am aware there was an attack and I am waiting for briefing from officers on ground".

Jonathan urges more investments in digital infrastructure

Former President Goodluck Jonathan has advocated for more investments in digital infrastructure and innovative teaching technologies as a means of enhancing learning and improving the value of education in a world that is increasingly being driven by technology.

The former President noted that the rapid pace of technological advancement required a forward-thinking approach for graduates to be able to successfully navigate both the opportunities and challenges it (technology) presents to them.

Jonathan stated this in his remarks as the Chancellor of Cavendish University, Uganda at the 13th graduation ceremony of the institution which was held in Kampala on Thursday, where he also commended CUU for always striving to be at the forefront of educational innovation.

He affirmed that CUU recognised early the transformative potential of technology in edu-

cation, and committed itself "to harnessing it to provide students with an unparalleled learning experience. This forward-thinking approach has established CUU as a leader in technology-enabled learning."

The former Nigerian leader who is the Chancellor of the institution further extolled the new graduates for their hard work, dedication, and perseverance, which saw them through, despite challenges.

He also charged them to seek to make a difference in the world in line with the mission of the university towards innovative transformation of society.

While providing key insights needed to successfully navigate the uncertain landscape outside the university, Dr. Jonathan urged the graduates to embrace lifelong learning, cultivate innovative mindset, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, build strong networks, and commit to ethical and responsible leadership.