

Cephas Iorhemen
Makurdi

Gunmen suspected to be armed herdsmen on Thursday launched an attack on Div community in Kwande Local Government area of Benue State and left at least three farmers dead.

The herders who invaded the area at about 10 am when most people were in their farms, opened fire on innocent farmers killing them in the process.

Many people were reported to have deserted their homes as a result of the attack.

Witnesses told Saturday Telegraph that those massacred included Akase Kume, Savior Demeô Irkyambe

Herdsmen kill 3 farmers in fresh attack in Benue

and Martin Terzungwe Torgbanger, who were shot dead at Mbanev, Mbakpeda in Yaav Council ward of the local government area.

A source from the area, Mr. Lawrence Akerigba, said that someone, who sustained severe injuries from the attack, is receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital at Jato-Aka.

"The victims were in their rice farm weeding it when the armed herdsmen struck in the morning, opened fire and killed them in the process."

Mr. Akerigba lament-

ed that the herdsmen also openly graze on farmers' farmlands, destroying their crops and threatening to kill anyone that tries to stop them from feeding their cows.

Also collaborating with Mr. Akerigba's position, former state Vice Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) Union, Godwin Tyokighir, confirmed the attack on farmers and appealed to the state government to urgently deploy security men to the area to restore peace.

Mr. Tyokighir further said

that the armed herdsmen, in collaboration with Jukun militants, resisted the burial of one person in Moon district, over the claim that he is not an indigene of the area.

He said that the corpses of the deceased were taken back to the mortuary pending when another proper burial arrangement would be made.

Akerigba and Tyokighir appealed to both the Benue and Taraba State Governments to call the Jukun people for enduring peace to return to the troubled com-