

# Herders murder 46 in fresh Benue attacks

Cephas Iorhemen  
MAKURDI

**G**unmen believed to be herdsmen have reportedly murdered at least 46 people after invading two communities in the Gwer West and Apa local government areas of Benue State.

Militia attacks in the North Central state in recent times

have claimed several lives and property.

The gunmen were said to have killed at least 30 people, mainly farmers in the Naka community in the Gwer-West LGA, and 16 in the Edikwu Ankpali community in the Apa LGA in latest attacks in the troubled state on Sunday.

The hoodlums were said to have carried out the attacks after most worshippers had returned from their worship

centres.

Sources said many residents were also whisked away to unknown destinations during the deadly assault.

A source said: "The community (Edikwu Ankpali) was completely sacked by the marauders.

"There is no single person in the community. It was an unprovoked attack. We were taken unawares and some people went to evening church service, while

others were relaxing at drinking joints when the killer herdsmen stormed the area.

"The security personnel stationed in the area were overpowered by the herdsmen."

Police spokeswoman, DSP Udeme Edet, confirmed the attacks.

DSP Edet said: "This is to confirm that there was an attack yesterday at Naka and Apa.

She said: "The tactical teams have been deployed."