

Suspected herdsmen invade Delta community

- Kill one, abduct 17-yr-old girl
- Demand N10m ransom

By Festus Ahon

ASABA—RESIDENTS of Isselle-Asagba in Aniocha South Local Government Area of Delta State, were Wednesday night thrown into fear, following the invasion of the community by suspected herdsmen, who killed a middle-aged man and kidnapped 17-year-old girl.

A dependable source, who spoke to *Vanguard*, said the incident occurred at about 7:45 pm, adding that the suspected abductors have established contact and were demanding N10 million ransom for the release of the girl.

The source, who pleaded anonymity, said the community vigilante group has launched a search party for the possible rescue of the girl.

The source said: "It happened last night (Wednesday) at about 7.45 pm, when shootings went on simultaneously at the three areas of the town by some hoodlums. We are suspecting they were same herdsmen that came to our school premises, killed one of

our teachers, abducted our Principal, shot two teachers, before the community youths and vigilante joined by mobile policemen, rescued them sometimes in October last year.

"The community has of recent come under attacks, which led to the death of a school teacher with others sustaining different degrees of injuries that kept them in hospital till early last month.

"As I speak, the entire community has gathered at the palace, while the vigilante men have gone into the bush to see if they could rescue the girl, but the kidnappers have called and are asking for N10 million ransom.

"The girl's mother was spared, perhaps because she is nursing a baby."

At press time, effort was still being made to talk with the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Hafiz Inuwa.

However, a senior police officer attached to the command confirmed the incident, adding that police were already on the matter.