

Herdsman strike in Ogun community, kill two villagers

By James Ogunnaike

ABEOKUTA— Hoodlums suspected to be herdsman, yesterday, struck in Yewa North Local Government Area of Ogun State, killing two villagers in an ambush.

The suspected herdsman reportedly laid an ambush for the villagers around 5 am on the Owode Ketu-Ijoun-Tata Road where they killed the two villagers.

A source revealed that the victims were shot in the chest and head regions, by the attackers.

The source added that the corpses of the victims, identified as Isiaka Apesin and Oguntosin Adebayo, were later discovered in the bush and evacuated by the police from Eggua Divisional Police headquarters.

Confirming the incident, Youth Leader of Owode-Ketu town, Sina Olaleye, said the duo were on their way to the market when they were ambushed and killed.

He said the corpses had been evacuated by the police. He, however, lamented the incessant attacks by the herders and called on the state government to rescue Ketu people from the menace of

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violent herders.

Olaleye added that the attackers were later located by the police in the bush with assault rifles and other dangerous weapons, but the police were unable to arrest them.

The Baale of the town, Sanya Fabuyi, said Owode-Ketu had been under the siege of herders, pointing out that the latest attack was one of many unprovoked attacks that had led to the death of many indigenes of the town.

"As I speak, my town is under the siege of herdsman. My people are living in fears, we are at the mercy of these marauders. Those who carried out this latest attack, I was informed, had bulletproof vests on and carried AK-47 rifles. Even, police are helpless to approach them in the bush where they were located after the attack," he said.

When contacted on phone, spokesperson of Ogun State Police Command, Abimbola Oyeyemi, confirmed the incident.

Oyeyemi, who said no suspect has been arrested in connection with the incident, explained that the police with the support of local vigilance group, hunters and youths, have gone on the trail of the suspects from

the Eggua and Igbogila ends of the bush.

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Meanwhile, Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State, yesterday, read the riot act to perpetrators of violence in Owode-Ketu, Eggua, Igan-Alade and Igbogila areas of the state, saying his administration would leave no stone unturned in curtailing the activities of brigands in the state.

This was just as he deployed a special task force comprising Police and other security agencies, including the Department of State Service, DSS, and local vigilante groups, with representatives of other stakeholder entities in the crises-prone areas of Yewa-North, Imeko-Afon and Yewa South Council Areas of the state.

Abiodun directed that investigation be sped up and concluded so that indicted persons could be charged to court and prosecuted in the interest of justice.

He said: "The government will leave no stone unturned in checking the activities of brigands and criminals in this state."