

Last week, Sheikh Gumi came out

the root because every crime has its as wealthy individuals and corporate

Tension mounts in Benue over death of royal father's brother, sister's kidnap

• **Youth set for war with suspected masked leader of gang that attacked palace**

By Peter Duru, Makurdi

A NEW wave of tension is rapidly mounting in Benue State

following the invasion of the palace of the royal father of Ikpomilokpo and the killing of his brother, and abduction of his sister by yet-to-be-

identified gunmen, but suspected to be armed herdsmen. The brutal attack, believed to have been spearheaded by a community member, who used a face mask to hide his identity, has left the acting Clan Head of Ikpomilokpo, in Ado Local Government Area of Benue State, Chief Paul Oche, in tears. The acting clan head who is barely two months old on the throne, was on an official assignment when the gunmen stormed the palace, killed his twin brother, and took away his elder sister around 2.00am on the fateful day.

The royal father who is still in shock told Arewa Voice that he never expected such a brutal attack on his palace having not done anything to anyone or group to warrant such unprovoked confrontation and destruction. He said the armed men who were suspected to be herdsmen were supposedly led to his palace by a masked young man who spoke the native Ado Idoma language. The clan head said: "From what I was

told, my mother and my siblings were sleeping when at about 2.00a.m the gunmen broke into the house while others were shooting sporadically to scare people away.

"The invaders tried to force open the entrance door of my residence and palace but when they could not, they used their weapons to bring down the door. They got in and started asking for my mother. But miraculously she was able to escape from there as she ran out of the house and scaled the fence. That was how she escaped. They entered my brother's room, his name is Thompson Oche. They dragged him out and started asking him of the whereabouts of our mother. He directed them to our mother's room. When they got there and our mother was not there, they confronted him again about her whereabouts. He told them that he had no idea of her whereabouts. They beat him thoroughly after which they shot him dead. After that, they went to my elder sister's room; her name is Rose Oche. They dragged her out and gave her

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• **The Ado LG Chairman and his delegation condoling the bereaved**