

5 dead, properties destroyed in Ogun farmers/herders clash

By James Ogunnaike

ABEOKUTA—Apata Kajola via Idofa in Imeko/Afon Local Government Area of Ogun State has become a ghost of itself as indigenes and other inhabitants of the agrarian community have deserted it following a bloody clash between residents of the community who are peasant farmers and Fulani herdsmen.

The clash led to the untimely death of no fewer than five persons, with property worth several millions of Naira destroyed.

It was learned that the people of Aworo community in Yewa North Local Government Area of the state had chased the herdsmen from their village to Apata-Kajola Idofa in Imeko, killing three of them and their cows, who had accused the Fulani herdsmen of destroying their farms and water sources through open grazing of cows; a practice the state government had banned.

A community leader, who spoke with *Vanguard* under the condition of anonymity, said the Aworo people killed

the three herdsmen in Idofa.

He said there was a reprisal last Thursday, and this led to the death of two Yoruba persons. One of them was burnt beyond recognition.

Farms destroyed, houses burnt

Also, houses, four maize barns, motorcycles and other valuables were reportedly set ablaze by the attackers.

He said: "The Aworo people chased the herdsmen from Yewa North to Idofa in Imeko. They killed three of them there and killed their cows.

"On Thursday, the herdsmen returned in the dead of the night to launch an attack. They killed two persons, set houses and other properties on fire. One of those killed was burnt in his house beyond recognition. It took the intervention of the police and the Amotekun corps to calm the situation.

"As we speak, many Ohoris are injured; hundreds are now displaced at Imeko town. We need the attention of the federal and state governments to take care of the displaced persons.

"There are many villages in that area, about eight villages were affected. It affected Obolo, Kotogiri, Olori-Ejo, Apata Kajola, among others. It is about six to eight villages. They also burnt a settlement when I left there on Friday."

Herdsmen causing mischief—Amotekun

On his part, the State Commander of Amotekun Corps, David Akinremi, who confirmed the incident, claimed that some people said to be Agbekoya from



Benin Republic allegedly pursued some herdsmen to Apata Kajola, claiming that the herdsmen had caused mischief on their farmland.

Akinremi said: "Three of the herdsmen and some of their cows were killed with two of the deceased burnt.

"The invaders were, however, engaged in a gun duel by Amotekun operatives from Imeko Afon as first responders when they arrived at the scene."

Senator Odebiyi calls for probe of attack

In his reaction, the lawmaker representing Ogun West Senatorial District, Senator Tolu Odebiyi, has called on relevant government agencies, including the Nigeria Police for a thorough probe into the circumstances that led to the death of five persons during the clash between farmers and herdsmen in the Imeko-Afon Local Government Area of the state.

Odebiyi demanded that a thorough

investigation be carried out by the Police without further delay to unravel the identities of those behind the dastardly act and apprehend them.

Ogun holds peace parley

The state government, in its effort to find a lasting solution to the crisis between farmers and herdsmen, organized a peace meeting with the two parties.

At the meeting, a search party was set up to recover corpses from both sides for a befitting burial.

It was gathered that the meeting was not organized to count their losses, but to look for a way out of the incessant clashes for peaceful coexistence and harmonious relationships in the communities.

At the meeting that was attended by stakeholders, including traditional rulers, religious leaders, there was a resolve that each party should go back to hold meetings with their respective people that peace must reign supreme in the state.

n (08033509763)

kinrefon 08023844928

(Photo)
Ekiti
Ibadan
Osogbo
Abeokuta