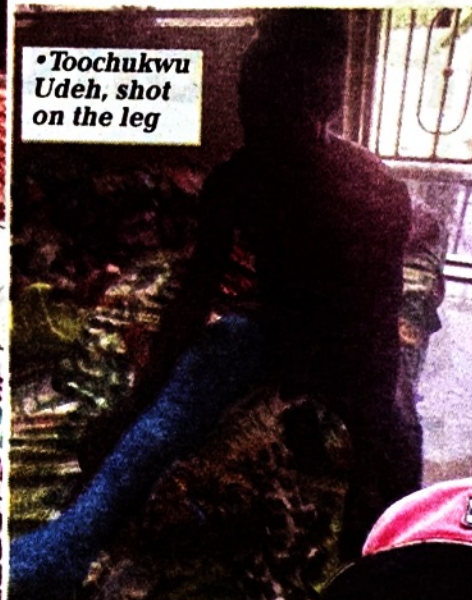


# South East Post



• Protest by Awgu community members



• Toochukwu Udeh, shot on the leg

## Fulani herdsmen kill two, injure five, chase Enugu community out of their farms

By Dennis Agbo

No less than two persons have been killed following an attack by suspected Fulani herdsmen on Awgu Egbeleli, an ancient town subdivided into Ogboli/Ohaja, Ugwuleshi and Adagbator autonomous communities in Awgu local government area of Enugu state.

The attack also led to the hospitalization of no less than five persons in the community with gunshots, while five motorcycles were burnt and farm lands destroyed.

One of the victims with several gunshots that shattered one of his eyes, Christopher Okwu, said that they went to their various

farms on February 17 and as they were working in their farm, a Fulani young man emerged from the bush and said to him 'I go kill you' and before he knew it the herdsmen had shot him and other herdsmen emerged, shooting everywhere.

"We didn't do anything to them, we were not contesting any land with them, it's our farm; the only thing I can identify about them is that they are Fulani herdsmen. The only problem we used to have with them is that after farming they would come and destroy our crops and we've been begging them not to destroy our crops, let them take their cows to somewhere else, but that day was just unexpected," narrated the 50-year-old Okwu.

Another victim of the gunshot attack, Toochukwu Udeh, 30 years, who survived

and is still receiving treatment from a hospital, said that "what happened was that these Fulani herdsmen are terrorizing this village but there is nobody to help us. We were in the farm when the Fulani herdsmen

attacked us and shot at us. We manage to run and that is the gunshot injury on my bandaged leg.

"We hadn't even got to our own farm proper when we were attacked. They laid ambush on us, I think they planned to attack our village and we did not have any problem with them earlier than now it's just that they usually come with their cows to destroy our farms."

Speaking during a protest in the community, on Thursday, Head of Onol village, Elder Umechukwu Okeke narrated that the herdsmen invaded their community, attacked them, resulting in the death of two persons and others hospitalized. He pleaded with the local, state and federal governments to come to the aid of the Awgu community.

He said that since then, the community could not return to their farms for the fear of being killed, stating that Fulani herdsmen have taken over their farm lands, rape their women and commit all sorts of atrocities in the community.

"We beg the government to come to our assistance, to the assistance of the victims and to the family of those that died," Okeke pleaded.

The village head of Obuofia village, Chief Matthias Eche in a similar account pleaded for the intervention of all tiers of government in the misfortune that has befallen the community.

The National President of Awgu Town Youths Association, Mr. J.C Nwankwo regretted that as farmers, herdsmen have taken over their farmland, to the extent that they can no longer go to their farms, bringing about hunger. He also solicited for the intervention of the government at all levels in the matter.

President General of Awgu Egbeleli Development Union, Prof. Reko Okoye lamented the invasion of their farmlands in Ogboli and Obuofia villages by the suspected Fulani herdsmen that he said came at night and laid ambush for the community, shot sporadically, killed people, burnt their motorcycles, harvested their farm produce and ran away.

"Those killed are in the mortuary and those alive are in the hospitals. The situation is getting out of hand and that's why we are crying to the local, state and federal governments to come to our aid," Okoye pleaded.



• Christopher Okwu, shot in the eyes and other parts of his body