

Benue herders attack: Death toll hits 51

***Angry youths take over Otukpo-Oweto-Abuja road to protest carnage**

By Peter Duru,
Makurdi

The death toll in Wednesday's armed herders' attack on Umogidi village, Enetekpa Adoka district of Otukpo Local Government Area, LGA, of Benue state has risen to 51.

This is just as angry youths of neighbouring Apa LGA where a traditional ruler in Ugbobi community and many others were equally murdered by the marauders, took over the busy Otukpo-Oweto-Abuja road to protest the carnage and to demand the intervention of government.

The casualty figure in the Umogidi attack rose from the initial 46 to 51 after five more corpses were recovered from the besieged village between Thursday and Friday morning.

The increase in the death toll was confirmed by the Chairman of Otukpo LGA, Mr. Bako Ejeh who said after the initial 46, four more corpses were recovered yesterday while another corpse was found Friday morning.

The Chairman who lost his 33 year old son in the attack disclosed that a missing woman was also found alive Friday morning.

He said "luckily the woman who was missing initially was discovered alive this morning. But the death toll rose to 51 after one corpse was recovered this morning."

"The situation is however calm because security personnel have been sent in and there is no further problem. But we are appealing to government to come to

our aid. Government should give us support so that we do not experience a repeat of the attack.

"This morning Governor Samuel Ortom sent his Deputy, Benson Abounu to come and commiserate with us and encourage us.

"The Federal Government must live to its responsibilities, we cannot fold our hands and watch these Fulani herdsmen come and take

over our land. Everybody needs to rise up and nip it in the bud. We cannot understand where the country is headed.

"Where do the Fulani want us to go, they cannot chase us out of our ancestral homes. My own son was also killed by the invaders, what is our sin?"

Meanwhile, one of the leaders in Apa LGA, Abba Ocholi who was trapped on the Otukpo-

Oweto-Abuja when the youths of Apa LGA took over the busy road Friday morning said he had to abandon his car and made his way to his residence on foot.

He said "this morning our angry youths mounted a roadblock at Ugbokpo, Apa Local Government Headquarters. I ran into them and in fact I abandoned my vehicle there.

"All the vehicles from Abuja and those from the East were all trapped there and no one could move for several hours. But two teams of soldiers came in from Makurdi and the youths were prevailed upon to end the protest. So they finally agreed to vacate the road. "It is unfortunate that Fulanis are doing this in our communities, there is no reason whatsoever for the killings.

How Ondo varsity final year student was killed over N1000 debt

***Monarch reacts**

***We won't rest until justice is done - Student Union leaders**

***Plead for calm**

***We'll get the killers - Police**

By Dayo Johnson,
Akure

Graphic details have emerged of how the final year student of the Ondo state owned Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba, Akoko, Temitayo Ayodeji, was stabbed to death by suspected cult members who were natives of the community.

The deceased, according to students in the institution, just wrote his final papers in the Physics Electronics Department before he was gruesomely murdered.

An eyewitness account said that "Temitayo, lives off campus, around Ebenco area in the Akungba community. He just wrote his final year papers in the Physics Electronics Department. It was an issue of money, N1000 precisely,

between an indigene who is a cult member and Temitayo. The case was reported to the police and it was amicably settled.

"But as the student left his apartment for the roadside, the assailant stabbed him.

He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital where he was later pronounced dead at a hospital located at Iwaro-Akoko. His death angered students who mobilised and subsequently set the suspected killer's mother house ablaze". Another source alleged that he was stabbed by the cultists after he refused to pay the the cultists N1000 they demanded from him.

Reacting to the ugly incident, the President of the institution's Students Union Government, Comrade Ogunsanmi

Kolade and its General Secretary, Adeyefa Tolulope, said that the perpetrators should be made to face justice.

A statement they issued after the incident reads "The leadership of AAUA Students' Union

have been reliably informed about the murderous and barbaric killing of our innocent student earlier today and we have since swung into action to ensure that the perpetrators are apprehended and justice is served accordingly.

"According to information at our disposal, as related by some eyewitnesses, Temitayo Ayodeji was stabbed to death in his hostel (off campus) by some indigenes who are already on the run.

KOMU scales through accreditation huddle again

By Chidi Nkwopara

The management of Kingsley Ozumba Mbadiwe University, KOMU, Ideato, Imo State, has said that it will not renege on its many student-friendly policies, aimed at making the institution a first-choice destination for fresh students.

The institution's Vice Chancellor, VC, Professor Ikechukwu N. S. Dozie, who reiterated management's position yesterday in Owerri, also

announced that all mature programmes in the University, has been fully accredited by the National Universities Commission, NUC.

His words: "The University Management is committed to making KOMU a first-choice destination in a short time, due to the many student-friendly policies of the university.

"Such include rich curricula, emphasizing entrepreneurship and leadership education, vocational and skills acquisition, driven by