

2 killed, many injured in fresh herdsmen attack on Benue communities

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—Two persons were reportedly killed in fresh attacks by suspected armed herdsmen in Ikpele and Okpokpolo communities of Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State.

It was gathered that the attackers of the Ikpele and Okpokpolo communities of Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State also razed several houses while many have been declared missing.

A source in the area disclosed that the marauders stormed the communities in their numbers, Tuesday night, about 10 pm from neighbouring Nasarawa State.

According to the source, "They attacked Ikpele and Okpokpolo and other places all through yesterday night and we are yet to get the exact number of persons killed.

"There was a serious battle in the night. Two bodies have so far been recovered. Many houses were burnt. In fact, within the attacked communities, at least 17 burnt houses were counted. People have deserted their homes and seeking shelter in neighbouring towns and villages."

A community leader and former Commissioner for Information, Culture and Tourism, Mr Mike Inalegwu, who confirmed the incident said: "The truth is that the armed herdsmen attacked Okpokpolo village and killed two persons while the villagers were thinking of their speculative attack on Ogbai community.

"The tension is high and the seven villages in Kogi State border of the local government is deserted. This is authoritative."

Special Adviser to the Benue State Governor on Security and Internal Affairs, Joseph Har, who also confirmed the attack, said he had no details of the

casualty figure.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, SP Catherine Anene, said she was yet to receive details of the incident.

Illegal mining: 3 buried alive, one survives in Nasarawa

By David Odama

LAFIA —Tragedy struck at Unguwar Tandu village, Karu local government area of Nasarawa State following the death of three persons who were excavating and loading sand and were buried alive.

The victims are Dauda Umari, Abdullahi Ayawa and Zakari Musa while Mohammed Nasir survived.

Narrating the incident, deputy chairman of Union of Tipper and Quarry Employers, Aminu Sunusi, said three persons lost their lives while one survived and is currently receiving treatment at undisclosed hospital.

"The deceased were excavating sand to load a tipper lorry at the site in Unguwar Tandu few kilometres to Keffi located in Karu local government when the sand slid and covered them.

"Dead bodies of the victims were later recovered after engaging the services of an

excavators."

Sunusi described the incident as tragic and unfortunate ever in the history of the mining activities in Unguwar Tandu village, adding that the recovered bodies had been buried in line with Islamic rites.

One of the workers and a relative of one of the deceased who escaped the incident expressed shock over the incident.

Mohammed Nasir, survivor and Aruwa Maikasuwa, one of the deceased father said they were yet to recover from the tragedy.

On whether a government officials has visited the community or the site, an officer of the state fire service told our correspondent on condition of anonymity that no government official has visited the community or the scene of the incident.

Efforts to getting the police or the state Ministry of Environment and Solid Mineral Resources for comment on the incident proved abortive at press time.