

#### **Herdsmen shoot sporadically, injure 1 in Imo communities**

In Imo, gunmen suspected to be herders on Saturday night, invaded Agwa and Amakohia-Ubi communities.

The two boundary communities are in Oguta and Owerri West local government areas, respectively.

A local of Amakohia-Ubi, who pleaded anonymity, said the herdsmen came in their numbers and shot sporadically, while residents scampered for safety.

The attack, according to him, followed an effort by the community to stop the herders from grazing in farms in the area.

The source stated that the herders had been destroying and feeding their cattle in farms in the community.

“There have been herdsmen attack in Amakohia-Ubi, Owerri West LGA since yesterday (Saturday). Before now, they have been coming with cattle to eat up crops in our farms and our security men have been chasing them away, only for them to resurface yesterday from our boundary with Agwa in Oguta LGA and began to shoot sporadically.

“People who live around the there couldn’t sleep in their homes and the entire community kept vigil throughout the night,” he stated. It was gathered that a man was shot in the process, with serious bullet wounds.

A native of Agwa community, who lamented what he described as insensitivity of the authorities to their plight, told Vanguard: “Look at what is happening. They (authorities) would start looking for anyone who says something about what is happening, instead of tackling the issue.

“There is tension and apprehension everywhere and the authorities who should do something are not concerned.”

Agwa and some other communities in Ohaji/Egbema and Owerri West have remained under attack by herders.

Recall that three years ago, herdsmen killed one Mr. Ozoemele Iriaka, a native of Agwa community on his way to farm.

**In 2023, they also invaded the community, shot sporadically and killed a motorcyclist.**

Communities, such as Obokofia and Obosa Asaa in Ohaji/Egbema, have been invaded several times by the herdsmen, as a response to any attempt to stop them from grazing in farms.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the state, DSP Henry Okoye, could not be reached for his reaction at press time last night, as calls and text messages sent to his mobile phone yielded no response.