

Armed herdsmen kill two in fresh Benue attack



...they destroyed our harvests, residents lament

By Peter Duru, Makurdi

Two middle-aged men have been reportedly ambushed and killed in their farms by armed herdsmen at Goh village, Naka, in the Gwer West Local Government Area (LGA) of Benue State.

It was gathered that the victims, one Monday, Orlovuu, and his friend, were attacked and killed Thursday afternoon by the marauders while harvesting their crops in their farms located less than four kilometres from Naka town, the Local Government Headquarters.

According to a source who identified himself as Lanshim, the gruesome murder of the duo came less than 48 hours after the armed herders had led their cattle to graze on people's farms and destroyed their harvests.

He said it was out of fear of losing their crops to the rampaging herders and their cows that the deceased moved into the farm to harvest their crops.

"They wanted to save the crops they laboured so hard to plant; that was why they went to the farm to harvest the crops, but they did not make it out alive.

"The armed herders stormed the farms at the time they were working and attacked them. And unfortunately they could not save their crops, and they also lost their lives while trying to salvage what they could from the farm.

"It is rather unfortunate that this has become the lot of our people. We have been chased out of our communities, and any attempt to visit our farmland to cultivate food to feed our families is met with a bloody attack. So how do we survive with our families when we cannot cultivate the land?

"The government must get these terrorists out of our communities because there is no way we can accommodate bloodthirsty killers in our land and pretend that we can live together.

"All they want is to chase us away and occupy our ancestral land, and the government seems to be indifferent to what is happening to us.

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"It will interest you to know that these killer herders murdered the young men shortly after the Chairman of Gwer West visited the area to assess the initial

destruction of people's farmlands by the same armed herdsmen. After grazing on people's farms, they still killed two young men who were labouring in their farm.

"How long would this continue to happen to our people? Something needs to be done urgently to save our people the pain and trauma they are living with," he said.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Deputy Superintendent, DSP, Udeme Edet could not be reached.