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40 killed in Lagos pipeline explosion

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LAGOS, April 21 (Xinhua) -- No fewer than 40 persons were feared burnt to death in a pipeline explosion in Lagos, Nigeria on Sunday evening, according to the reports of the Lagos-based the Sun newspaper on Tuesday.

The incident was reportedly to have occurred at about 6:00 p.m. local time at Iyana Odo village after Ilado, a village about 25 miles east of Nigeria's commercial hub.

Sources from the village confirmed that no fewer than 40 persons died in the explosion.

Frank Mba, the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, declined to comment on the issue.

Other relevant emergency management agencies could not confirm the incident.

In June 2006, a ruptured pipeline exploded in Ilado as villagers rushed to collect oil gushing from it and a number of people perished in the flames.

Editor: Fang Yang

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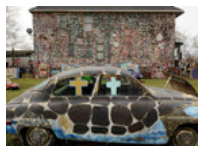
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