

NEWS.

40 die in Taraba boat mishap

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NO fewer than 40 persons were feared dead Wednesday as a boat conveying people from the troubled Dampa Village in Ibi Local Council Area of Taraba capsized, killing all the occupants.

The victims were said to be fleeing the area following gunmen's attack on the village from the neighboring Plateau State.

The suspected gunmen, numbering over 100, were said to have invaded Dampa Village yesterday morning, killing several persons and inflicting injuries on others.

An eyewitness, who spoke with The Guardian, said majority of the victims were women, children and the elderly who could not swim, adding that

a family of six, including father, mother and four children, were victims of the boat mishap.

Speaking with The Guardian, the Council Chairman, Adamu Ishaka, said: "When the attackers stormed the village, people started running away. They shot at several bullets at the boat conveying the fleeing villagers.

"We have drafted Marine Police to the area to confirm what actually happened".

Also, over 30 persons were reportedly killed last Sunday in a renewed crisis that erupted between Christians and Muslims in Wukari Council of the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Joseph Kwaji, who confirmed the incident to The Guardian, said the Command had drafted heavily armed policemen to the area and that necessary efforts were being made to track down the culprits.

Following the insecurity of lives and property in the state, several persons have continued to move to the neighboring Benue State.