

NEWS HEADLINES

43 die in boat mishap in Taraba

📅 19.Jun.2014 | DISQUS_COMMENTS | 👤 Celestine Ihejirika - Jalingo

NO fewer than 43 persons reportedly lost their lives on Tuesday following a boat mishap in River Benue, at a point linking Taraba and Adamawa states at Dampar village, in Ibi Local Government Area of Taraba State.

The incident, which occurred at about 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, was reported to have been caused by an attack by unknown gunmen who allegedly invaded the village from the neighbouring Plateau State and started shooting sporadically and burning houses of the villagers.

According to eyewitnesses, the sudden attack on the village prompted many residents to run from the scene and in the process, those who were able to escape to the riverside immediately boarded a locally made boat to cross to a nearby village, but the boat capsized due to overloading, thereby resulting in the death of all occupants of the boat, the source told the Nigerian Tribune.

The development, the source added, was pathetic, as according to him, there was no rumour of any attack in the village even before going to bed on Tuesday night.

When contacted on the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, ASP Joseph Kwaji, confirmed the attack to the Nigerian Tribune, but said information on the number of casualties was yet to be ascertained by the police, promising to give more update as soon information reached his office.

The attacks on the communities have become worrisome, as eyewitnesses said from Sunday till Wednesday, over 75 persons had so far lost their lives in the area.

It will be recalled that the attack would be the third one on the community since two months ago, allegedly from the neighbouring Plateau State.

Corpses of the victims were said to have been deposited at nearby health centres in the local government, as efforts to speak with council chairman, Honourable Ishaku Adamu, proved abortive.

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