Nursing mother, nine-day-old baby killed as building collapses in Ondo

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A nursing mother and her nine-day-old baby have been confirmed dead, while the grandmother sustained injuries after a building collapsed on them on Wednesday in Akure, the Ondo State capital.

The baby, who was christened on Tuesday, died alongside his mother before any help could reach them, while the grandmother was rescued alive from the rubble of the building.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday at Ayedun Street, around Hospital Road.

It was gathered that an overhead tank fell on the storey building, which caused it to cave in.

An eyewitness told the *Nigerian Tribune* that the one-storey building collapsed in the middle of the night.

Residents of the area immediately rushed out for a rescue mission after the incident, but the nursing mother and her baby had died before help could reach them.

The eyewitness said: "The woman and baby died instantly, while the grandmother was rescued alive, though injured. It was really a pathetic death; an overhead water tank mounted very close to the storey building suddenly gave way and fell on it.

"There was no sign that the concrete on which the water tank was mounted was weak. It was too sudden.

"Unfortunately, the baby who was christened yesterday [Tuesday] was inside the building with the mother when the tank fell on the building.

"The sound of the collapsed water tank attracted neighbours who rushed to the scene, but they were helpless as the victims were under the debris of the collapsed building."

He added that the husband of the deceased was not at home when the incident occurred, but he was called and he rushed home to find his wife and the baby under the collapsed building.

The bodies were later evacuated by security personnel who later visited the scene, while the injured victim was rushed to a nearby hospital.

A senior police officer confirmed the casualties, but the state police spokesperson could not be reached for comment.