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One dead, many injured in Delta boat accident

April 10, 2012 by Emmanuel Addeh, Warri [14 Comments](#)



An eight-year-old boy was killed in a boat accident which left many passengers injured in Warri South Local Government, Delta State, on Monday.

Reports said the wooden boat was set to take off from the Government Jetty, Ogbe-Ijoh Market in Warri South to Agge in Bayelsa State when tragedy struck.

According to sources, 50 passengers were aboard the boat before it capsised while trying to pull out of the jetty.

Our correspondent learnt the child, simply identified as Ebi, died during the struggle for survival when the accident occurred.

“The little boy fought gallantly to save himself, but the strength of the waves overpowered him. The adults who could swim and were able to withstand the water survived, while many of the children were injured,” the source said.

The incident led to a temporary halt of trading activities in the nearby Warri market, as local swimmers and traders mobilised to rescue the passengers.

Though the passengers were rescued, their goods were reportedly lost in the incident.

The source said, “Many of the victims were able to swim to safety but sustained various degrees of injuries. Many of the passengers were market women and children returning home after the Easter celebration.

“Until we investigate, we might not know the cause of the accident, but it might not be unconnected with the carelessness of the boat operator and the fact the boat was overloaded.”

It was also learnt that some of the injured survivors were rushed to undisclosed hospitals in Warri for treatment, while the body of the child was deposited at a morgue in the city.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Charles Mouka, said he was not aware of the accident.

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