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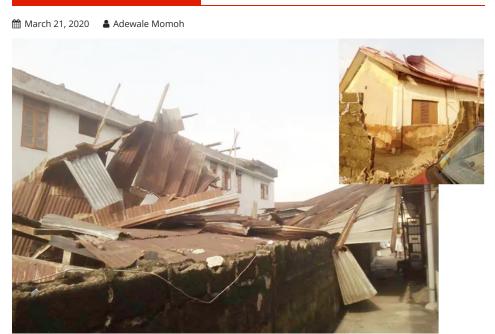




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# Rainstorm kills one, renders hundred homeless in Ondo



Heavy rainfall wreaked havoc in Akure, the Ondo State capital, on Thursday, killing one person with over 400 people rendered homeless. Six persons were also injured during the torrential rain which was accompanied by windstorm in Olu foam, Omoniyi Estate and Igoba areas of the State capital.

The deceased, who was simply identified as Faith Utobo, according to his father, Mr. Daniel Utobo, went to church for evening service when the rain started on Thursday night. Utobo, a retired civil servant said his son died as a result of the injury sustained when the church building collapsed during the rainstorm.

Apart from the death, several houses were destroyed rendering several people homelessness in the rainstorm that lasted less than 30 minutes. Also, several electric poles were destroyed leaving the community in total blackout. What worsened the situation was that the roofs of some buildings were totally blown off and destroyed other buildings not affected by the storm. When journalists visited the community, affected residents were seen removing blown off roofs from the streets. Several carpenters were hired to remove roofs that fell on other buildings. Some residents were seen with their properties outside their houses.

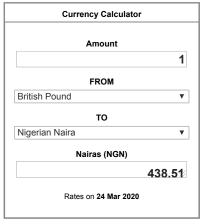
A community leader, Mr. Ayeni Abayomi, said: "What happened yesterday was beyond human knowledge and imagination. It started around 6pm. It was very terrible. It destroyed over 80 houses. Most of our properties have been destroyed.





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This is beyond our capacity, we thank God no live was lost but the damage is too much." Another resident, Mrs. Helen Eniola, described the situation as terrible and devastating. She said: "The rain started and what we heard was a big storm. Our properties were destroyed. We lost many things here. I was inside the house but nobody died." Another victim, Afolabi Oluwatoyin, thanked God that nothing happened to her and three children. She said: "We were inside when it started.

I am only begging for help to enable me to have roof over my head." A retiree, Femisola Olofinsawo, urged the Ondo State government to come to their aid to ameliorate their sufferings. He said: "We need assistance because of the havoc caused by the rain. The shop I have has been blown off. It caused another havoc in another person's house. We are pleading for the state or Federal Government to come to our aid. "The rain started and the next thing we hear was a heavy wind and the houses started collapsing. There is nobody the thing did not affect. My own is not a problem but my

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