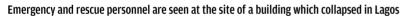
100 children feared trapped as school collapses in Lagos





Police said they believed scores of people were trapped under the rubble

Panicked parents, local residents and shocked onlookers rushed to the area

• A reporter at the scene saw at least eight people pulled from the wreckage

School bags, tovs and clothes could be seen

a boy of 10 being pulled from and police were on hand. the rubble covered in dust but with no visible injuries. A crowd area of Lagos island, the original erupted into cheers as another heart of the lagoon city before child was pulled from the wreck- it expanded onto the mainland. age. The two were among eight rescued so far.

Workers on top of the rubble shoveled debris away as thousands of people swarmed around ing from rooftops and hundreds more packed into the surrounding streets.

"It is believed that many people including children are currently trapped in the building," said Ibrahmi Farinloye, spokes- lapsed," Olamide Nuzbah told been "earmarked" for demoliman for the National Emergency in pidgin English. Management Agency's southrest region, adding that casualty

The building was in the Ita-faji

"We are still trying to find out children residents said had been how many are trapped inside," said police officer Seun Ariwyo, who added that the number was

probably scores. He said "at least 20 have been the rescue site – dozens watch- brought out" but did not say whether they were alive or dead. One local resident who wit-

nessed the moment of collapse said there was no warning.

Many locals said that the building, which was in an ad-'We were smoking outside vanced state of disrepair, had when the building just coltion by the authorities.

dead.

be distressed.

Lagos, which has a population of 20 million people and serve As rescuers worked furiously as Nigeria's economic capital, parents begged them to find lands. One of them is Lagos Island, a densely-populated area "Please, save my child, save which is one of the city's oldest It is characterised by its Afro-Brazilian architecture, a style people tried in vain to console brought over by thousands of freed slaves who headed back

of rubble as a bulldozer tried

to clear a path through some of

the wreckage to help the rescue

efforts. As the day wore on, a

correspondent saw several chil-

dren being brought out, at least

one of whom appeared to be

Elsewhere, hundreds of local

residents tried to help, passing

water and helmets through to

dust-covered rescuers working

tirelessly to sift through the rub-

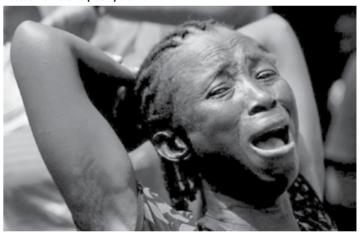
ble, some of whom appeared to



Men carry a boy who was rescued



Rescue workers help carry a child



A woman reacts at the site of the collapse building

among the piles of rubble figures were not yet available.

Reuters, AFP | Lagos, Nigeria

As many as 100 children and many others were feared shouting and screaming. A fight mother whose seven-year-old trapped yesterday after a build- almost broke out as anger at the daughter was trapped inside, as ing containing a primary school collapse boiled over. collapsed in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos.

around 100 children attended the school, which was on the third floor of the building.

In the crowd's midst stood am- her. bulances, fire trucks and a fork

Distraught parents

Residents of the area said to reach those inside, distraught is made up of a collection of istheir children.

At the site, many people were my child!" wept one traumatised neighbourhoods.

School bags, toys and clothes home after decades working the A reporter at the scene saw lift. Workers from the Red Cross could be seen among the piles plantations in Brazil.



People watch rescue workers at the site

19 migrants kidnapped from bus in Mexico

AFP | Mexico City, Mexico

Tineteen passengers who N were kidnapped from a bus last week in northern Mexico were migrants, President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said yesterday, as investigators worked through the murky details of the case.

The men were crossing the viday when four vehicles blocked on a list. the road and forced their bus to



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

stop, according to authorities.

Armed men then boarded the olent state of Tamaulipas, on the coach and kidnapped 19 pas- number of victims could be as US-Mexican border, on Thurs- sengers whose names they had high as 25.

"I can confirm that they were conference that one line of nary risk," it said in a statement.

migrants," Lopez Obrador said, investigation is the possibili-Reynosa, a border city across tected. Mexico's National Human

from McAllen, Texas.

Although the bus driver told Rights Commission, however, were kidnapped, investigation

The president told a news that places them at extraordi-

referring to the abducted men, ty the men could have staged without specifying their nation- their own kidnapping as a way alities. The bus was traveling to drop off the radar and then from the port of Tampico to enter the United States unde-

authorities that 19 passengers warned the men may have been genuinely kidnapped, and that sources have indicated the real their lives could be in danger.

"They are in a situation of vulnerability on multiple fronts

Several dead in Brazil school shooting

Sao Paulo, Brazil

shooting at a school near $\mathbf{A}_{\mathrm{Sao}}$ Paulo yesterday left ing five children, a teacher and several people dead, police two teenagers believed to be sources said, with initial re- the shooters. ports putting the death toll as high as eight.

Sao Paulo's state military "several people were shot" the institution in Suzano and opened fire.

Brazilian television channel Globo and website UO1 said eight people had died, includ-

UO1 said 17 people were also injured in the shooting.

Television pictures showed police department said that worried family members congregating outside the Raul when "an individual" entered Brasil school in the greater Sao Paulo area, alongside firefighters and security services.