

# Tragedy beyond reckoning

21 schoolchildren died after floodwaters swept away their school bus near a tourist site in Amman



Tala Ibrahim and Nada.



Ms Al Mansoori visiting the family members of a victim.



Ms Al Mansoori visited Wael Al Ali at the hospital.

● **Mother of 14 years old Tala Al Assaf, another victim, said the school authorities failed to ensure that the parents received a consent form before the excursion.**

● **Reports revealed that the 21 children who lost their lives were 14 years old and below.**

**TDI | Manama  
Supriya Reginald**

On Thursday morning, families of 37 children in and around Amman prepared their young ones for what they thought would be an enjoyable excursion unaware of the big tragedy that was in store.

Within the next few hours they heard a news which was hard to believe.

Flash floods have claimed the lives of 21 schoolchildren as raging floodwaters swept away a school bus near Jordan's shore of the Dead Sea.

The school bus was returning from Victoria College in Amman after visiting the popular Wadi Zarqa Ma'in tourist site when the vehicle was swept away by floodwaters.

Reports revealed that the 21 children who lost their lives were 14 years old and below.

Speaking to Tribune, mother of victim Naba said the family is trying hard to cope with the loss.

“The children who survived are highly traumatised with the fact that they lost 21 of their friends. They have also suffered painful injuries, both physical as well as emotional.”

MS AL MANSOORI

Mother of 14 years old Tala Al Assaf, another victim, said the school authorities failed to ensure that the parents received a consent form before the excursion.

“We didn't receive a consent form for the deadly trip, we had no idea it was going to be in that dangerous area,” stated the traumatised mother.

“Tala was a wonderful boy whose dream was to join the security forces,” she recalled.

The heroic act of Ali brothers stood tall as he along with his three brothers saved four children from drowning.

Wael Al Ali successfully saved two children and attempted to save a teacher when the harsh waves rendered him unconscious.

“My regret is that I couldn't save the teacher and more people,” revealed Wael, who is currently receiving treatment for numerous fractures and bruises at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman.

Omar Al Ali, oldest of the four brothers, managed to save two children and is now said to be in

a critical condition at the same hospital.

The heroic acts of the four brothers came with a hefty price as Omar and Wael lost their two younger brothers who sacrificed their lives attempting to save the schoolchildren.

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa had sent cable of condolences to the Jordan King Abdullah II over the tragic incident.

The Embassy of the Kingdom had also expressed its condolences to the Jordan Government.

Bahraini yoga therapist and social worker Fatima Al Mansoori paid a visit to the families of the victims in Jordan.

“The children who survived are highly traumatised with the fact that they lost 21 of their friends. They have also suffered painful injuries, both physical as well as emotional,” she said.

Post the incident, officials faced difficulties with regard to the identification of some of the recovered bodies.

“The bodies of some of the children who died could not be identified. It was very tragic because according to what I heard, these unidentified bodies were buried and then had to be exhumed after finding some leads to identify,” revealed Ms Al Mansoori.

Students who survived the catastrophe sustained both emotional and physical trauma, many of whom are currently in critical conditions at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman, Jordan.

“I plan on meeting the children who have been injured and provide as much support as possible,” stated Ms Al Mansoori.

**DR. SANJEEWANI KESHAV**  
Consultant - Obstetrics & Gynecology

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