

38 dead as boat capsizes off Greek island

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Athens: At least 38 refugees-Including 14 children- drowned afterÂ wooden boat containing more than 130 people capsized near the Greek Island of Farmakonissi.

Four babies and 10 young children - five boys and five girls - were among 112 people on the stricken boat when it sank off the southern Aegean island early on Sunday, the Athens News Agency reported.

The island lies midway between Samos and Kos, two of the favoured targets for smugglers sending thousands daily to Greek islands off Turkey's coast.

Greece's coast guard said the dead included four infants and 11 older children.

Coast guard officials said the boat may have tipped over in part because of wind gusts exceeding 50 kilometres per hour (30 miles per hour).

Rescue officials said 68 others were rescued from the sea while 30 more swam to the barely populated island.

Sunday's tragedy came just a day after two other boats capsized and at least five people â€” four children and a 20-year-old man â€” were presumed drowned.

- AP / INDIA TV