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Russia quake kills 70

2,500 people are still unaccounted for after one of the country's largest natural disasters.

MOSCOW (AP) — About 2,500 people remained trapped under the debris of wrecked buildings and many were feared dead Sunday after an earthquake flattened a town on an island in Russia's Far East.

Rescue workers reported hearing moans from under the rubble in the town of Neftegorsk, which bore the brunt of the 7.5-magnitude quake that belted Sakhalin Island early Sunday while most residents slept.

Officials said 70 people were confirmed killed and more than 200 were injured in one of Russia's strongest quakes ever. The casualty toll was expected to rise as rescue teams combed the remote Pacific island site.

By early Monday, rescuers had recovered 39 bodies from Neftegorsk and taken 144 people to the hospital, according to Russia's Ministry for Emergency Situations.

Eleonora Budrina, a Moscow-based spokeswoman for the ministry, said 2,500 people were unaccounted for in the town and many were feared dead or injured.

The quake, which struck the large Pacific island at 1:03 a.m. Sunday local time, was centered just offshore near its thinly populated northern tip.

Neftegorsk, population 3,500 and located 40 miles northwest of the epicenter, was destroyed. Other villages were damaged.

Raisa Mikhailova, municipal spokeswoman for the regional center of Okha, said 13 five-story houses made of prefabricated blocks collapsed in Neftegorsk, burying about 3,000 people. Hundreds of those buried were later saved, she said by telephone.

She said 224 injured people, including 42 children, had been brought from Neftegorsk to hospitals in Okha and Khabarovsk.

"The dead are being collected on the site in Neftegorsk. We don't know the exact number," Mikhailova said.

Moans from under the rubble were audible throughout the town, according to an unidentified ministry spokesman quoted by the Interfax news agency.

Sakhalin's deputy governor, Vitaly Gomilevsky, said at least 70 people were killed, Interfax reported.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Okha, a town of 35,000 people located 55 miles north of Neftegorsk, balconies fell from two five-story buildings and many houses sustained cracked walls and broken furniture. Aftershocks rocked the region throughout the day Sunday.

The initial quake also ruptured an oil pipeline running north from Neftegorsk — which translates as "oil town" — and destroyed oil wells, spilling an unknown amount.

A special plane left Moscow on Sunday with a rescue team and equipment aboard. Camps were set up for those evacuated from the

quake area and teams of medical and rescue workers were sent to the area, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Russian news reports said more than 200 rescue workers, helicopters and more than 10 airplanes participated in the rescue effort, with more teams preparing to go to the area.

Rescue work reportedly was hindered by heavy fog.

Sakhalin Island, some 4,000 miles and eight time zones east of Moscow, is rich in natural resources — oil, gas, coal, timber and fish. Home to 750,000 people, it was closed to foreigners for decades because of its sensitive military bases.

Soviet authorities wary of possible spying ordered a fighter to shoot down Korean Air Lines Flight 007 when it strayed over the region on Sept. 1, 1983. 269 people aboard, including 26 Americans, were killed. The plane fell into the Sea of Okhotsk off the island's southwestern coast.

A quake measuring magnitude 7 or greater is capable of widespread, heavy damage.

Two other major tremors have shaken the region in the past eight months.

On Oct. 4, an 8.2 quake struck Russia's disputed Kuril Islands about 600 miles southeast of Sunday's epicenter, killing at least 10 people.

On Jan. 17, a 7.2 quake demolished Kobe, Japan, to the south, killing 5,500 people.

Japan offered Sunday to send aid to the Sakhalin quake victims. Russian President Boris Yeltsin conveyed his condolences to the affected by the earthquake, saying he was greatly saddened by the news and promising to take all possible measures to help.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic dies in air attack

Serbs take more U.N. peacekeepers in light of escalating global condemnation.

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnia's foreign minister and three colleagues were killed Sunday when their helicopter was shot down over Serb-held positions in a troubled northwestern pocket.

Rebel Serbs, facing escalating global condemnation, seized more U.N. peacekeepers. The Bosnian government blamed Serbs for firing the missile that downed the chopper.

The United Nations said only that the craft was hit over positions held by Croatian Serbs.

Serbs, confident U.N. hostages would shield them from a repeat of last week's NATO air raids on ammunition dumps, seized 33 more peacekeepers, all British, near Gorazde in eastern Bosnia.

The Serbs already have more than 200 mostly French peacekeepers surrounded near Sarajevo and hold 30 U.N. monitors, some of them chained to poten-

tial NATO targets.

As the Serbs upped the stakes, frustrated U.N. officials demanded their masters in the world's capitals tell them what to do: stand tough or back away in the most humiliating retreat of the United Nations' 50-year history.

"We hope that we will get some guidance and backing," said U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko. "A lot of thought will have to go into our next step."

"A lot of thought will have to go into our next step because it will probably be the most important step the international community makes in this century."

Alexander Ivanko U.N. spokesman

because it will probably be the most important step the international community makes in this century.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic, a 43-year-old Muslim, died when his helicopter was shot down as it flew over Croatian Serb positions near the

beleaguered government-held enclave of Bihac, Bosnian officials and U.N. spokesman Maj. William Taylor said.

It came down in territory held by Croatian Serbs, 4 1/2 miles south of Cetinograd, just west of the Bosnian-Croatian border, Taylor said.

Ljubijankic was the most senior Bosnian government official killed in more than three years of war.

Also killed were an assistant

Bosnia and neighboring Croatia as well as renegade Muslims who reject the Sarajevo government.

On Sunday, the Serbs also shot at NATO planes and lobbed 10 shells into the U.N. "safe area" of Tuzla, decapitating a man at a bus stop and wounding another. Tuzla, a northern government stronghold, was the site where 71 people were killed and 151 wounded by a Serb cluster bomb Thursday.

In Sarajevo, a standoff between Serbs and French peacekeepers ended when the Serbs withdrew overnight for reasons not immediately clear. French marines resumed control of a disputed bridge.

Four Serbs captured by the French during the standoff remained in U.N. hands. Serb commander Gen. Ratko Mladic told the United Nations that detained peacekeepers would be treated better if the Serbs were freed by noon Friday, a U.N. source said.

Across Europe, Western leaders held various crisis meetings on the next step. No decisions were expected at least until NATO foreign ministers meet Tuesday in the Netherlands.

Harvard pre-med student murders roommate before hanging self

Stabbing spree occurs at end of academic school year.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — A Harvard University pre-med student went on a stabbing spree in a dormitory Sunday morning, killing one of her roommates and wounding a visitor.

The woman then hanged herself and later died in a hospital, the Middlesex district attorney's office said.

Many students emerged in tears, and most refused to talk about the incident in the Dunster House dorm.

Sunday was the day for underclassmen to move out of the dorms and many parents, who had arrived to help with the move, anxiously waited outside.

The attacker was identified as Tadesse Sinedu, 20, of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Friends said Sinedu had seemed anxious and unhappy as the academic year came to a close.

Final exams ended Saturday. Graduation is June 8.

"I saw her last week, and she seemed quite frustrated in the library studying and sort of had a glazed look on her face," said a fellow pre-med student who spoke on condition his name not be used.

First Assistant District Attorney Martin Murphy said Sinedu shared one room of their two-room suite on the building's second floor with 20-year-old Trang Ho, a Vietnamese native. Both were juniors.

Thao Nguyen, 26, was visiting Ho and sleeping in the other room when she was awakened by sounds of a struggle, Murphy said. He said she saw Sinedu stabbing Ho.

Murphy said Nguyen tried to intervene and was stabbed herself, so she ran to the courtyard for help.

Ho was pronounced dead at Cambridge Hospital. Nguyen was treated and released at the hospital for superficial stab wounds.

Murphy said Sinedu ran into the bathroom in the suite, barricaded the door and hanged herself.

Authorities declined to speculate about a motive, though they said there were no signs of problems between the roommates.

"I just can't believe a student could do anything like this," said Aaron Zelman, a 22-year-old senior who lives in Dunster House.

Zelman of Rye, N.Y., said screams and shouting had shattered the quiet about 8 a.m. Students said Harvard University and Cambridge police burst into their rooms with guns drawn looking for Sinedu.

About 300 students live in the dorm, where another student committed suicide earlier this spring.

"It's not even real to me," said Nathan Edwards, 18, who was visiting on that fatal night.

"It's very difficult to fathom that while I was in there, crashing on a couch, this was going on outside."

Ingrid Bassett, a senior who lives in Dunster House, said she was awakened by a phone call from a friend elsewhere in the building who heard about the stabbing and called to tell her to lock her door.