

Quake hits Sumatra Island, 58 dead

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — At least 58 people died and 500 were injured in a powerful earthquake that lasted for minutes in the Indonesian island of Sumatra and was followed by hundreds of strong aftershocks today. Widespread panic was reported in Bengkulu, a province of about 1.2 million people near the tremor's epicenter, as rescuers dug through the rubble of ruined buildings in search of bodies and trapped survivors.

Ali Muchtar, Bengkulu health department chief, said 58 people were confirmed dead. Almost 500 people had been reported injured, 255 seriously. The quake hit at 11:29 p.m. Sunday and was centered beneath

the Indian Ocean, about 60 west of Bengkulu city, which has about

"Dozens of homes have been destroyed and almost all houses and buildings in the city seem to have been damaged"

— Sgt. Hariyono
Bengkulu policeman

250,000 residents. The Indonesian Meteorological and Geophysical Service said the quake measured magnitude 7.3. The U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., estimated the strength at 7.9.

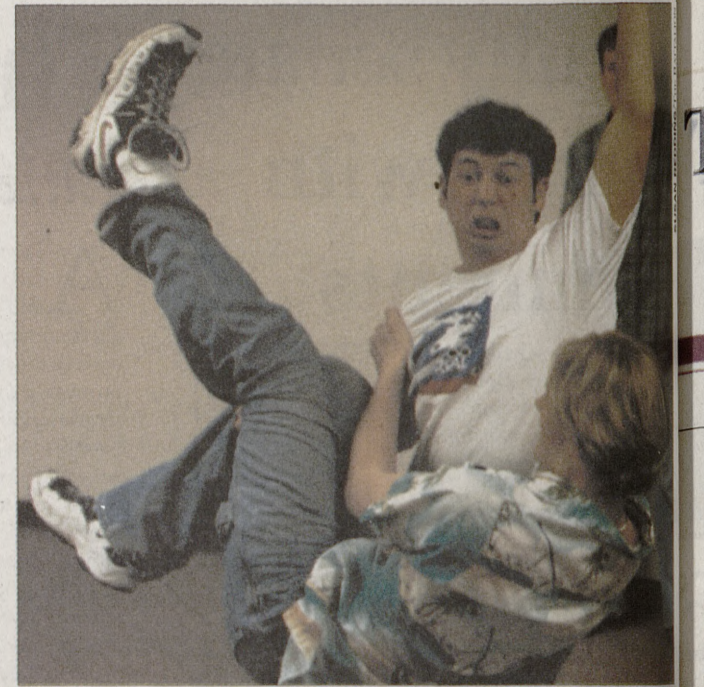
The quake lasted several minutes and shook a wide area. A magnitude 6 aftershock hit 11 minutes afterward, and more than 260 smaller tremors were recorded today. Initial reports said Enggano island, about 125 miles southeast of Bengkulu town, was also badly hit. "The quake went on for many minutes. Dozens of homes have been destroyed and almost all houses and buildings in the city seem to have been damaged," said Bengkulu police

Sgt. Hariyono. "People are terrified every time they feel aftershocks."

Thousands fled their homes. Witnesses reported widespread panic in Bengkulu and said hospitals were overwhelmed with injured people. Electricity and water supplies had been cut. Many phone lines were down. Navy spokesman Rear Marshall Ontowiryo said two warships carrying food supplies and medical needs had been dispatched to the area.

"Many houses have collapsed and the walls on bigger buildings have been fractured. I helped save three of my neighbors who were trapped under rubble," said Edy, a resident who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

Freeze frame



During Freudian Slip auditions, Morgan Baker, a sophomore physics major, lifts up Josh Kutach, a sophomore general studies major, while participating in an improvisational exercise called "freeze."

Supreme Court throws out penalty

HOUSTON (AP) — Casting doubt on the fate of at least eight other condemned inmates in Texas, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out a killer's death sentence Tuesday after prosecutors conceded that the penalty was based in part on the fact that he is Hispanic.

The court ordered a new sentencing hearing for Victor Hugo Saldano, convicted of murdering a man for his wallet and watch in a Dallas suburb in 1996.

During the punishment phase of Saldano's trial, psychologist Walter Quijano testified for the prosecution about Saldano's "future dangerousness," an aggravating factor that allows Texas courts to administer the death penalty instead of life in prison.

Quijano listed 24 factors in his assessment, including Saldano's ethnicity. He testified that blacks and Hispanics are over-represented in prison, and that Saldano's Hispanic background "was a factor weighing in favor of future dangerousness."

In upholding Saldano's death sentence, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals said that permitting use of his ethnicity was not a "fundamental error."

However, after Saldano's lawyers appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, Texas Attorney General John Cornyn and his staff said the state "confesses error" and joined in asking for the new sentencing hearing. Saldano's guilt was not in dispute.

Quijano gave similar testimony in the trials of eight other death row inmates, and those cases will get another look, said Mark Heckmann, spokesman for the Texas attorney general's office.

"We are reviewing those cases and expect to release our findings by the end of the week," Heckmann said. He would not identify the eight cases.

Quijano was the state prison system's chief psychologist in the 1980s and is now in private practice.

Quijano was on vacation Monday and unavailable for comment. However, a colleague at his clinic said whatever Quijano's testimony was based on scientific reasoning.

"We're sworn to tell the truth, yet sometimes we are not allowed to do that because attorneys orchestrate what is disseminated in the courtroom," said the colleague. Clinical psychologist Roger Saunders, who like Quijano frequently gives expert testimony for both prosecution and defense attorneys.

Saldano is from Argentina, where he joined 10 other Latin American countries in urging the Supreme Court to intercede.

"Argentina finds it intrinsically offensive for anyone to suggest any Hispanic is more dangerous and therefore more deserving of the death penalty — simply because he is Hispanic," lawyers for Argentina told the court.

News in Brief

Prosecutor shot, gunman dies

BURKESVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The chief prosecutor for a four-county area was shot to death in his home this morning and his alleged assailant was also killed, police said.

The bodies of Commonwealth's Attorney Fred Capps and the second man were found at the scene after state police were called about 6:15 a.m., Sgt. Mike Castle said.

The gunman came to Capps' home with an assault rifle, firing several shots into the home before entering and firing again, Castle said.

The assailant had an arrest record, he said, giving no details. The man's name was not released, and police would not say whether they think he killed himself or was killed by Capps in self-defense.

Capps was prosecutor for Adair, Casey, Cumberland and Monroe counties in southern Kentucky.

Capps shared a law practice with his wife, Cathy, who is assistant commonwealth's attorney, Jones said. She and their two children were at home at the time of the shootings but were not harmed.

Dictator faces long legal battle

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — A court on Monday announced a decision to strip Gen. Augusto Pinochet of his immunity from prosecution, leaving Chile's former dictator facing a long legal battle over the human rights abuses committed under his rule.

Opponents of the former dictator cheered and wept for joy while Pinochet's defense team said it would appeal the ruling Tuesday.

The outlines of which were leaked to the media two weeks ago. The Santiago Court of Appeals voted 13-9 on May 23 to remove the congressional immunity Pinochet enjoys as a senator for life. He faces 110 lawsuits on behalf of those killed or injured during his 17-year rule.

In releasing the 55-page decision, court President Ricardo Ballesteros said the 22 members of the court "resolved that the grounds to begin a case against Pinochet for the right to dictatorship that ended in 1990."

Pinochet's lawyers have said they will appeal to the Supreme Court within the five days allowed under law. The former dictator is facing 110 lawsuits filed by victims of the regime that took power in a bloody 1973 coup.

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