



AS IT IS

Earthquake in Indonesia Collapses Buildings, Kills at least 162

November 21, 2022

A 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck Indonesia's Java island on Monday, collapsing buildings and killing at least 162 people. Hundreds of others were reported injured.

Indonesian officials said the quake was centered near the town of Cianjur in West Java, about 75 kilometers southeast of the capital, Jakarta.

West Java Governor Ridwan Kamil said the number of confirmed dead had risen to 162.

The earthquake caused numerous structures to fall around Cianjur, trapping at least 25 people under collapsed buildings. Officials said more than 2,200 homes were damaged and more than 5,300 people had become displaced.

In Jakarta, some buildings shook and some offices were **evacuated**.

The head of Cianjur's government, Herman Suherman, reported power outages in the area. The power cuts were affecting some communication efforts. Suherman added that a landslide had blocked evacuations in one area.

Hundreds of victims were treated on the grounds of the main government hospital in Cianjur. Elsewhere, groups of people gathered outside buildings that had collapsed.

Among numerous damaged structures were an Islamic school, a hospital and other public buildings, the disaster agency said. Officials were still working to examine the full level of damage. Indonesia's weather and geophysics agency said the quake struck at a comparably **shallow** depth of 10 kilometers.

Vidi Primadhania was working in Jakarta when the quake struck. “The quake felt so strong. My colleagues and I decided to get out of our office on the ninth floor using the emergency **stairs**,” Primadhania told The Associated Press. Some workers who remained inside buildings took cover underneath their **desks**.

The country of more than 270 million people often experiences earthquakes, volcanic activity and ocean waves called tsunamis. This is because Indonesia sits within the so-called “Pacific Ring of Fire,” a collection of volcanoes and **fault lines**.

In 2004, a 9.1 magnitude earthquake off Sumatra island in northern Indonesia set off a huge tsunami that struck 14 countries. The disaster killed 226,000 people along the Indian Ocean coastline, more than half of them in Indonesia.

I’m Bryan Lynn.

The Associated Press and Reuters reported on this story. Bryan Lynn adapted the reports for VOA Learning English.

Words in This Story

evacuate – *v.* to move people from a dangerous place to a safer place

shallow – *adj.* having only a short distance from the top to the bottom

stairs – *n.* a set of steps leading from one level to another, such as in a building

desk – *n.* a table used for doing work on

fault line – *n.* a break in the Earth’s surface

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