

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SPAIN: MADRID EXPLOSION

12 March 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 02/2004) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

The Situation

A day after a series of bomb explosions in Madrid, the latest reports indicate that at least 198 people have died, and over 1,430 are injured, many seriously. Four separate trains were hit by what is now known to be ten explosions. The country has begun three days of mourning. Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar has called for mass rallies this evening (12 March) to show the country's defiance of terrorism. Meanwhile, Spanish authorities are conducting investigations to determine who might be responsible.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The President of the Spanish Red Cross and of the International Federation, Mr. Suárez del Toro, is lending comfort and assistance to those affected. Medical treatment continues to be the main area of Government and Spanish Red Cross action. In addition, the Spanish Red Cross response includes:

- mobilization of more than 400 volunteers.
- more than 100 Spanish Red Cross psychological support experts are working in Madrid to support the victims and relatives of this morning blasts. Additionally, in different provinces of Spain (Catalonia,

Spain: Madrid Explosion; Information Bulletin no. 02/2004

Extremadura, Navarra, Huelva, Huesca, Granada, Segovia, Avila and Murcia) psychological support teams have been established to provide comfort to relatives of those missing and affected. Each team is formed by 12 experts.

- there is no further need for more blood donations (there has been an overwhelming response from the Spanish population to the appeal for blood donations).
- more than 70 vehicles, of which 26 are ambulances, are being used to transport people to hospitals
- the Spanish Red Cross has activated its tracing system –nationally and internationally - to assist families concerned about the fate of their loved ones. In cooperation with the Interior Minister and the Madrid regional government, Red Cross volunteers are attending telephone calls of those that have lost somebody. They have received and attended to over 4,000 telephone calls.
- Media: interviews with the main international media have been carried out by senior Spanish Red Cross officials (such as BBC and RFI).

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