

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

INDONESIA: FERRY ACCIDENT

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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The Situation

The Indonesian ferry, MVP Senopati sank as it neared the end of a two-day journey from the Indonesian section of Borneo island to the country's main island of Java, after being pounded by heavy waves for more than ten hours. The ferry sailed from Utar harbour, Pankalan Bun city, Kumai district, Central Kalimantan province to Tanjung Mas harbour, Semarang city, Central Java province and is believed to have sunk around Mandalika island sometime on the 30 December 2006.

According to the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), the ferry carried 542 passengers when it sank. Some 150 people have been rescued so far by passing ships, fishing boats and other vessels and have been taken to the cities of Rembang (54 people), Tuban (24 people) and Surabaya (72 people). It is hoped that these numbers will go up as survivors may have been picked up by ships heading for different ports. Life rafts have also been spotted but not reached.

It is estimated that about 400 people remain missing in stormy seas as high waves and bad weather continue to hamper rescue efforts.

BASARNAS (National search and Rescue Agency), assisted by the Indonesian Air Force and Indonesia Navy, conducted search and rescue operations in the Java sea. Strong winds and poor visibility initially prevented aircraft from joining the search, but ships are patrolling the waters off the Java coast in the area where the ferry sank.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Across the districts that have been receiving an inflow of survivors, Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) volunteers and/or ambulances in related branches have been actively helping the government in its the rescue operations.

Ten volunteers from the Semarang branch, along with BASARNAS have been mobilized to conduct a mapping of the location. Food supplies and blankets are also thrown from helicopters to survivors in life rafts who have yet to be rescued. An ambulance is also available at the Tanjung Mas seaport.

Some 40 volunteers from the Rembang branch have been involved along with other actors in the search and rescue operations since Saturday 30 December 2006. They are also facilitating efforts to reconnect survivors with their relatives.

Volunteers from the Tuban branch have been mobilized to assist the SATLAK (district executing unit for the management of disaster and IDPs/refugees) and BASARNAS teams while the Surabaya branch volunteers work continuously to evacuate those rescued in the Tanjung Perak seaport to the hospital in Surabaya.

The central Java chapter was on standby twenty-four hours a day through its established command post. It is assisting in the coordination of search and rescue in the northern shore of Java island and provided an ambulance in the seaport of Tanjung Mas to transport survivors to the nearest hospital. PMI headquarters have dispatched 200 body bags to the central Java chapter and continues to closely monitor the situation.

Further updates will be made available as the situation develops.

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The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>