

# 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

## INDIA: BOMB BLASTS IN MAHARASHTRA

Information Bulletin no.  
01/2006  
11 September 2006

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 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.*

The town of Malegaon, in the state of Maharashtra in western India, was hit by a set of bomb blasts on 8 September 2006, killing 35 people and injuring 100. Following the blasts, the government announced a curfew in Malegaon town. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), through its district branches, offered medical assistance and ambulance services to aid the government's efforts and is conducting an assessment of the situation and the needs of the affected people.

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

- In India: Indian Red Cross Society, Dr. S.P. Agarwal (Secretary General), email: [spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org](mailto:spagarwalsg@indianredcross.org), phone +91.11.2371.6424, fax +91.11.2371.7454
- In India: South Asia Regional Delegation, Ms. Nina Nobel (Acting Head of Regional Delegation), email: [nina.nobel@ifrc.org](mailto:nina.nobel@ifrc.org), phone: +91.11.2411.1125, fax: +91.11.2411.1128
- In Geneva: Asia Pacific Department, Mr. Hiroto Oyama (Regional Officer), email: [hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org](mailto:hiroto.oyama@ifrc.org), phone: +41.22.730.4273, fax: +41.22.733.0395

### The Situation



Map showing Malegaon town in India's western state of Maharashtra. (source: Reuters)

A set of bomb blasts hit the town of Malegaon in the Nasik district of Maharashtra state in western India on 8 September 2006. The bombs, concealed on parked cycles, exploded near a mosque and crowded market place, killing 35 people and injuring 100. The first blast occurred at 1350 hours, followed by the second explosion after an interval of two minutes (for details please see our disaster management information system - DMIS - entries). The cause of the blasts is not known yet. Investigations are on and relief and medical help are being provided to the injured.

Malegaon, located 260 kilometers northeast of Mumbai, is a town of around 800,000 people, with a predominantly Muslim population. The town has suffered communal violence in the past too. In May 2006, police had recovered a consignment of explosives and automatic rifles from here. On 10 September, a set of explosives was also found in

Shahpur town in Thane district of Maharashtra.

The inter-state bus services to Malegaon have been temporarily suspended due to security reasons and the nearest railway connection is more than an hour away. The lack of public transport is affecting the general public.

**Government and Community Response:** The government and local community transported the wounded and the dead to the city hospital and critical patients were transported to Dhule town, 50 kilometers away from Malegaon, as this town has better health facilities. All medical facilities have been provided free of cost by the government and some amount of monetary compensation was also announced for the families of the dead and wounded. The government has applied a strict curfew in Malegaon town, to prevent any communal unrest.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Nasik district branch of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) is monitoring the situation and is in constant touch with the government. The IRCS, through its district branches, offered medical assistance and ambulance services to aid the government's efforts. The Dhule district branch volunteers rushed to the Malegaon civil hospital where several critically injured patients were brought. Around 15 volunteers assisted the hospital staff in admitting the patients and providing tea and snacks to the people accompanying the victims.

The Maharashtra state branch, to assist the Dhule district branch, released Rs.5,000 for initial expenses of food and medicines being provided to the victims. The state branch and the IRCS national headquarters are coordinating with each other, as also with the IRCS sub-district branches. The national headquarters had requested the Dhule district branch to conduct an assessment of Malegaon town and meet the affected people in order to identify their needs. However, as the branch did not have the adequate resources to carry out this activity, the neighboring Jalgaon district branch is conducting the assessment and will submit its report shortly.

[Please return to the title page for contact information](#)

*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>*