

# 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

## RUSSIA: PLANE CRASH IN IRKUTSK

Information Bulletin  
no. 01/2006  
11 July 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 over 183 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 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.

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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>

### The Situation

On 9 July 2006, an Airbus A-310 on a domestic flight (S7 Airlines, Flight 778) from Moscow failed to stop when it touched down in the Siberian city of Irkutsk and veered off the runway, crashing into a building and bursting

into flames. The crash took place at 7.50 a.m. local time (02.50 a.m. Moscow time), five and half hours after taking off from Domodedovo airport.

The Russian Federation government issued an official statement indicating that the plane was carrying 203 people, including 193 official passengers, eight members of the crew and an additional two passengers who were not on Siberia airline's official list. The passengers included 12 foreign citizens from Germany, China, Belarus, Azerbaijan and 14 children (up to age 12). It is reported that 131 died on the spot and 72 suffered injuries.

Of the crash survivors, 55 people (including six children) are currently undergoing specialized medical attention and being treated for burns, trauma and the effects of smoke inhalation, while 17 survivors are receiving home care. According to hospital sources, six of the injured (including one 10-year child) are in a critical condition. The exact status of victims continues to be under review.

The exact cause of the catastrophe has not yet been found, but is likely to be the consequence of several unfavourable factors: weather conditions, concrete runway slopes made slippery from rain, as well as human and technical factors.

Last night, three flights for relatives of the crash victims left from Moscow for Irkutsk. At the moment, these people are placed in hotels in the Siberian city.

President Vladimir Putin offered his condolences to the victims of the crash on Sunday morning and ordered that all possible help be offered to those involved, according to a statement on the Kremlin web site. He declared Monday a national day of mourning.

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

The Irkutsk regional branch of the Russian Red Cross is actively taking part in rendering assistance to the victims and their relatives. An Emergency Appeal is being prepared and spread through the Russian RC Irkutsk branch website and mass-media.

Psychological support to the victims and their relatives is provided through the joint efforts of the Russian RC Irkutsk branch and the organization "Emergency/Disaster Medicine", a division of the Russian Federation's Ministry of Health specializing in medical care to accident victims. Three Russian RC psychologists (including one volunteer) are conducting crisis consultations and counselling with the relatives of the deceased.

Russian RC staff and volunteers have been distributing potable water, disposable utensils, sanitary masks, hygiene supplies and first-aid packages to the affected population.

An operative needs assessment is being conducted with the involvement of the Russian RC. Marina Akoulova, the Chairman of the Russia RC Irkutsk Branch, is coordinating the work together with the local Ministry of Emergency Situation Unit.

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