

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 لجمعية الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

TIMOR-LESTE: VIOLENCE AND UNREST

03 May 2006

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In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and 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

Frightened by violent events that developed in the Timor-Leste capital over the last week of April, numerous people have left their Dili homes and fled back to their home villages. Thousands have gathered at different points in Dili. A rapid assessment conducted by the Timor-Leste Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste or CVTL) on Saturday, 29 April 2006, in the main places where the people had sought shelter recorded approximately 15,000 displaced persons in six known locations. By the evening of 2 May, people had left several of these centres, but around 9,000 had not yet returned home, fearing for their safety.



CVTL volunteers were involved in the registering of displaced people in the Don Bosco shelter, which housed over 7,800 people.

On 29 April, the people sheltered in Don Bosco College, the largest of the temporary shelters, had received some rice and water from the local church, but as the resources were limited there was a request for CVTL to provide food, and water and sanitation facilities for the displaced people.

A joint assessment conducted by the ministry of labour and community reinsertion and CVTL on Monday at all the 14 known locations provided the following statistics on displaced people:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Number of people</u>
Junior/Senior Kristal School, Balide	220
Kanosiana, Balide	408
Saleziana, Balide	564
Police Station, Becora	1,700
Susteran Saboraka Laran, Becora	600
Bus Terminal, Becora	175
Polici Militar, Caicoli	1,075
Canosiana, Comoro	348
FDTL, Masin-Lidun, Tacitolu, Comoro	214
Police academy, Comoro	138
Don Bosco and airport, Comoro	7,833
Marabia, Dare	300
Mutiara 1-2, Market, Lauhata, Leopa, Puke Laran - Liquica	744
Taman Mini, Aldeia Lirio, Farol	100
Total	14,419

Red Cross and Red Crescent action



CVTL distributed biscuits and drinking water to the people living in shelters around Dili.

CVTL has established a first aid team at national headquarters as a contingency measure. All Dili branch staff and volunteers have been mobilized for operational needs. CVTL transported a dead body to the national hospital on 29 April.

CVTL, together with the Federation and ICRC have held a Movement meeting and also met with the minister of labour and community reinsertion to discuss the actions to be taken to support the displaced people. The government has requested the national society to first assess the numbers of displaced population and then, if needed, provide some basic assistance to them. After its volunteers conducted the assessment, CVTL contacted the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide emergency food, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to help with transportation (one truck). CVTL

received 305 boxes (nett weight of 12 kg each) of BP-5 high-energy biscuits from WFP. CVTL volunteers and staff supported by the Federation and the Austrian Red Cross country representative distributed the biscuits and packaged drinking water to 14,000 people at six temporary shelters (Junior/Senior Kristal School, Kanosiana, Saleziana, Don Bosco, Airport and Taman Mini) on 29 April.

On 30 April, the food and water distribution was continued, and visits to many temporary shelters were made upon request. On 1 May, CVTL held a coordination meeting with the government and UN to establish new assessment teams requested by the government. A total of 12 teams were dispatched and they have identified about 20 different temporary shelters, accommodating up to 14,400 people, mostly families. Locations mapped outside Dili were in Liquica (744 people) and Dare (300). The largest shelter according to the data was still Don Bosco with up to 7,800 people. The official report of these assessments were not available at the time of reporting, but the numbers are based on the data obtained directly from the assessment teams, each of which had a representative from CVTL. Some of the displaced people were out in the city during the day and only returned to shelters for the night, but it was not clear how many they were. Throughout 1 May, support was still offered to certain shelters by CVTL, depending on needs. People were encouraged to return to their homes, but many were still fearful.

On 2 May, CVTL and the Federation held a meeting to organize support for people sheltering in Liquica. The number of people in Liquica was 744 as of 1 May, but reports from there on 2 May and 3 May indicated that this number was increasing, possibly up to 2,000 people. On 2 May, BP-5 biscuits and water were being mobilized for people in Liquica. Oxfam was contacted to provide a water tank and water distribution system in cooperation with the UN Staff Administrative Services (SAS).

CVTL's secretary-general returned to the country on 1 May to take the lead in the operation. Close coordination with the government is being continued under her leadership.

The ministry of labour and community reinsertion established a desk for people to report on their missing family members. People whose family members have gone missing during the latest events in Dili have also contacted CVTL for assistance.

The Federation country delegation has provided technical support to CVTL disaster management and health units in meeting the authorities, sharing information, assessments and emergency response. The Federation acting head of delegation requested Red Cross cars only to be used for transportation. Over the weekend, all unnecessary travel was avoided, but after the unrest calmed down by 2 May, travel restrictions were withdrawn.

CVTL will monitor the situation closely in the coming days with the Federation and ICRC, and be prepared for further actions as needed.

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