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### **Indonesia: Earthquake in Irian Jaya**

The Secretary General of the Indonesian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Dr. Soesanto Mangoensadjito, has provided the Federation Secretariat with the following information on the earthquake which hit the northern part of Piak district in Irian Jaya province, East Indonesia, on Saturday 17 February 1996.

The earthquake, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale, occurred in the morning. It triggered a strong tsunami (tidal wave) which, more destructive than the earthquake itself, swept away 10 villages. According to reports, 53 people were killed, 51 injured and 19 are missing; 2,800 houses were destroyed.

The armed forces in Irian Jaya have been providing relief in the affected area. Twenty-five Red Cross volunteers from the local branch have been assisting victims by providing tents, medicines, water purifiers and a field kitchen. Rice and noodles are also being supplied. The IRCS is planning to send its representatives to the stricken area to assess needs and co-ordinate the relief operation. A more detailed report on the earthquake and Red Cross activities will be available from the IRCS tomorrow.

At this stage, no international appeal is foreseen by the National Society. We will keep you informed as new information becomes available.

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