Injury Toll Mounts in Mexico Quake

Rescue Teams Use Vehicle Headlights to Search for Victims

BY LEONARD GREENWOOD

Times Staff Writer

MEXICO CITY—Additional Red Cross units and the first army rescue teams arrived yesterday in the small Mexican town of Huajuapan de Leon where 30 people died and more than 700 were injured in an earthquake Friday. Estimates of the national death toll ranged from 410 to 650, officials said.

Thirteen Red Cross rescue teams, using ambulance headlights for illumination worked throughout the night to dig victims out of the debris of this shattered town of 20,000 in the southern state of Oaxaca. Estimates of the number injured rose from Friday night's total of more than 600 to about 700, officials said.

"About 470 of them are seriously injured," a Red Cross spokesman in the city of Puebla, the nearest large city to Huajuapan de Leon, said.

Buildings Destroyed

Red Cross teams from Puebla arrived in Huajuapan de Leon on Friday afternoon and found about 90% of the buildings in the town destroyed.

The government sent helicopters carrying medical and relief supplies to Huajuapan de Leon and other stricken towns in Oaxaca. Armed troops patrolled the town to prevent looting and armed survivals, some of whom spent the night in the streets, not to try to retrieve their possessions until order was restored.

"We have 350 injured lying out in rows in a park and we are keeping them as warm as we can with blankets," the Red Cross spokesman said. "There are another 60 seriously injured in the little clinic and 60 more in another center. During the night we treated 250 people for lighter injuries."

The force of Friday's quake was measured at 6.5 on the Richter scale. Huajuapan de Leon, 150 miles southeast of Mexico City, was close to the epicenter. The tremor shook large areas of Mexico, including the capital, where seven buildings collapsed, and was felt as far away as Guatemala City—600 miles south of Mexico City.

At least 6,000 people were left homeless throughout the region. One report said 300 villages were destroyed or damaged by the quake but additional details were sketchy.

The quake triggered dozens of landslides in Oaxaca, blocking roads, toppled utility poles and cutting off most telephone service.

President Jose Lopez Portillo visited the stricken area on Saturday to survey the damage.

Rattled survivors recall moment

by Vicente Morales

Associated Press

Huajuapan De Leon, Mexico—"When the quake struck, the bells started ringing," the Rev. Julian Gonzalez, parish priest of Huajuapan del El Sargento Church said Saturday. "We went out into the atrium, and from there we saw El Sargento's bell tower fall, and become silent forever."

When the earth stopped moving a minute later, 10 of this town's 12 churches, some dating from the 17th century, had been destroyed or damaged beyond repair by Friday's severe quake.

Twelve of the 20,000 residents of this mountain town in Oaxaca State were killed by the quake and another 500 were injured, about 80 of them critically. More than a hundred people were unaccounted for, and it feared some are buried under the debris.

Residents of surrounding villages said they saw a cloud of debris and dust rise above the town soon after the tremors stopped.

"I thought the town had collapsed," Nicolas Ramirez, 33, recalled when he saw the cloud rise over Huajuapan de Leon.

Ramirez said he walked eight hours from neighboring Nochistlan to Huajuapan de Leon in search of food and help for his village. "Thank God nothing happened to our family," he said. "The earthquake only damaged two doors of my house. One stayed closed and would not open, and the other would not close."

Mexican government sends aid to cities stricken by temblor

Associated Press

Gujuapan de Leon, Mexico—Thousands of the dead and homeless residents wandered in the streets of this town Saturday searching for food, water or friends in the rubble of buildings toppled by a powerful earthquake.

At least 12 people were killed and 500 were injured here in Friday's quake, police said. The death toll across the quake belt in central and southern Mexico was placed at 40.

and officials said it probably would go higher as search teams probed the ruins of damaged buildings.

About 80 percent of the buildings in this town 150 miles southeast of Mexico City were destroyed. The collapse of a social security office, a medical clinic, the central market, 10 of the town's 15 churches and the town's movie theatre trapped hundreds of people, witnesses said. More than 80 injured in the social security building were said to be in critical condition.

The government sent helicopters carrying medical and food to this town of 20,000 and other stricken areas in the southern state of Oaxaca. Many people spent the night in the streets and rescue workers struggled around the clock to free people trapped in the rubble.

Armed troops patrolled the town to prevent looting and urged survivors not to try to retrieve their possessions until order was restored.

The quake triggered dozens of landslides in Oaxaca, blocking all major roads, toppling utility poles and cutting off most telephone service.

Beatriz Margo, owner of a restaurant here, said the tremor started shortly before 9 a.m.

"The cash register fell and went through the floor," she said. "It hit the beam below and the boiler exploded."

Mexico Repairs Quake Damage

MEXICO CITY (UPI) — Mexico will spend $18.3 million to repair 11,000 homes and 200 church buildings damaged in last month's earthquake that killed dozens of people, the Ministry of Human Settlements and Public Works said.

Pimbo Press, Sun., Nov. 9, 1980
Two dead, 180 kids hurt as quake rocks Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A severe earthquake struck central Mexico today, killing at least two people in Puebla and sending buildings in Mexico City for more than a minute.

The Red Cross reported a falling wall killed the two in Puebla City and injured at least 180 others. The quake was located in the state of Morelos, about 80 miles southeast of Mexico City.

The magnitude of the earthquake was 6.5 on the Richter scale, which is a measure of the energy released during an earthquake. The Richter scale ranges from 1 to 10, with 10 being the most powerful. An earthquake of 7 or higher can cause significant damage to buildings and infrastructure.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.

In Mexico City, where the capital is located, the earthquake caused widespread panic, with many people running into the streets and away from buildings. The quake was felt across the country, with reports of damage and injuries in different parts of the country.

The earthquake was also felt in the Caribbean Sea, causing the Spanish coast of Mexico to send out a tsunami warning.

The earthquake caused a large number of buildings to collapse or suffer significant damage. Many people were seen running from buildings, and some were trapped under debris.

In Puebla, the earthquake caused a great deal of damage, with many buildings collapsing and injuries reported. The Red Cross said it had received reports of at least two people dead and 180 injured.