

Total of dead from quake exceeds 1,200

/The Houston Post/Tues., Nov. 1, 1983

ERZURUM, Turkey (UPI) — The death toll from Turkey's weekend earthquake rose above 1,200 Monday. Freezing weather hampered rescue efforts and threatened the lives of many among more than 20,000 people made homeless in the disaster.

Landslides triggered by the quake and by snowstorms, icy rains and gale-force winds left 40 mountain villages in the stricken area inaccessible to rescue workers. The weather also grounded some helicopter rescue flights.

Officials in Erzurum, the capital of the province bearing the same name, said that by late Monday rescue workers had recovered the bodies of 1,226 people killed by the five-second quake, which struck shortly after 7 a.m. Sunday.

Officials said 33 villages were destroyed and 11 others so badly damaged that "they can never be lived in again," as one put it.

Most of the dead were from the townships of Horasan, Narman, Pasinler and Sarikamis.

"EVERYTHING WENT MAD," said Mihrali Ceylanoglu, a survivor from Horasan. "Everywhere started to shake terribly with a sound of explosion."

Rescue workers in the region, Turkey's poorest, feared as many as 1,500 people might still be buried in the rubble.

Switzerland flew in mountain rescue dogs to locate survivors buried under snow-covered rubble. Offers of aid also came from the United States, Japan, West Germany, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Pakistan.

Officials said at least 20,000 people were left homeless after the quake toppled their mud and straw brick homes.

In a major rescue operation, 3,000 tents were airlifted from other regions of Turkey, and prefabricated buildings were being trucked in by hastily organized convoys.

NONETHELESS, THREE OR FOUR FAMILIES were being sheltered in tents designed for one household, rescue workers said. The onset of bitter winter cold at 6,000 feet threatened the lives of many survivors, they said.

"Erzurum is on a high plateau and at this time of year someone who cannot find shelter before nightfall will freeze to death before morning," the League of Red Cross Societies said in Geneva in an appeal for money for tents, blankets and sleeping bags.

By late Monday, officials said, 1,046 people had been treated for injuries at Erzurum hospitals.

But Dr. Suleyman Sirin of the State Hospital in Erzurum said the weather was keeping many of the injured away from hospitals while others prefer to wait for treatment at home, "which causes an increase in the deaths."

CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE still asleep appeared to have borne the brunt of the quake. Many working-age adults already up in the fields when the quake struck survived.

President Kenan Evren flew to the disaster area, 350 miles east of Ankara. He visited survivors hospitalized in Erzurum and later traveled to Narman, where he berated the population for clinging to old-fashioned lifestyles.

"You cannot leave your traditions — you do not build strong homes — and because of this the death toll is high," he said.

30 Killed In Quake

PEKING (AP) — An earthquake destroyed several thousand houses and killed 30 people today in northeast China, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The quake hit the Shandong province about 340 miles south of Peking. It measured 5.9 on the Richter scale.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
Nov. 7, 1983

813 dead, thousands left homeless in violent eastern Turkey earthquake

Houston Chronicle

Monday, October 31, 1983

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — The death toll from a violent earthquake in eastern Turkey reached 813 today, and Red Cross officials said many of the thousands of homeless survivors could freeze to death unless emergency shelter was provided.

Turkish authorities said the toll was expected to mount as rescue teams reached remote areas. Both the International Red Cross and its Turkish equivalent — the Red Crescent Society — issued urgent appeals for money to buy tents and blankets.

The Red Cross said the quake Sunday morning left at least 23,000 homeless or injured and devastated at least 32 villages. "The need for immediate shelter is a life-or-death matter," a Red Cross statement said. "The affected area is on a high plateau and at this time of year, someone who cannot find shelter after nightfall may freeze to death before morning."

The Red Crescent Society estimated it needs 5,000 tents, 30,000 heavy blankets and 5,000 heavy sleeping bags.

Rescue efforts, carried out mostly by soldiers, were hampered by darkness late Sunday and officials said they believed there were scores of other victims still buried under debris in hard-to-reach communities.

A rescue coordinator in Erzurum said thousands of survivors were exposed to cold, rainy weather after the quake.

"By the time enough supplies reach us they (survivors) will have to endure more natural disasters," he said, declining to be identified.

Rain and near-freezing temperatures were reported in the mountainous areas hit by the quake near the borders with Iran, Iraq, the Soviet Union and Syria.

Authorities said the quake was believed to be centered in



Map by John Yunek, Chronicle Staff

Toll reaches 1,233 as quake survivors endure cold, snow

ERZURUM, Turkey (AP) — Battling frigid weather, rescue teams erected tents today and fed tens of thousands of people left homeless by an earthquake that killed at least 1,233 people.

President Kenan Evren, after inspecting the disaster area, called for generous donations of money and supplies to help the survivors, many of whom were huddled in damaged tents and makeshift shelters to ward off the winter chill and snow.

"The destruction brought upon the region by the quake is greater than we thought at the beginning," Evren said. "We fear that loss of life and property will rise."

The powerful jolts that rolled through the eastern provinces of Erzurum and Kars Sunday also left at least 534 others seriously injured and destroyed 15,000 houses, leaving an estimated 75,000 people homeless.

Rescue workers today continued to clear the rubble and villagers buried the dead.

Village Affairs Minister Munir Guney, here to supervise relief work, said some of the homeless would be settled in public buildings temporarily. He promised to erect prefabricated houses quickly.

The International Red Cross has dispatched 13 tons of medical supplies, 20,175 blankets and 5,473 tents to Erzurum, officials said. They said a 37-car train filled with relief supplies left Ankara.

Saudi Arabia has contributed \$10 million, and contributions from institutions and individuals in Turkey were expected to be above \$1 million in the next few days, the officials said.

Another problem to be tackled by relief officials was preservation of stray livestock whose owners were killed by the quake. Cattle and sheep-raising is the main source of income in the region.

Lt. Gen. Irfan Yay, commander of Turkey's 9th Army Corps in the area and in charge of rescue operations led by military units, warned the people not to sell their livestock at deflated prices to "opportunists sure to flock to the area."

The quake was the worst to hit Turkey since 1976 when a major quake in the same region killed 3,837 people.

November 1, 1983 Houston Chronicle ★

Erzurum and Kars provinces, where most of the damage occurred. But it also jolted the provinces of Bitlis, Mus, Diyarbakir, Bingol, Van and Malatya, according to martial law authorities.

Authorities said at least 361 of the dead were found in Pasinler villages, including 125 in Koyunoren village, and nearly 100 were found under collapsed houses in Sarikamis.

Turkish television showed grim films of survivors, with elderly veiled women crying over the bodies of their relatives and mosques partially destroyed by the strong jolt.

The U.S. Geological Survey, which monitors tremors around the world, said the quake measured 7.1 on the Richter scale of earth movement.

The Richter scale is a gauge of energy released by an earthquake as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. A quake of magnitude 7 is a major earthquake capable of widespread, serious damage.

"I was about to take my regular morning tea when I felt an intense rumbling under my feet and the entire roof collapsed on my head," said an unidentified farmer in an interview with a Turkish television crew.

"Then I opened my eyes in the hospital. I have really no idea what happened to my wife, my kids."

Journalists said rescue teams had reached almost two-thirds of the hundreds of villages in the Erzurum and Kars provinces close to the Soviet border.

Erzurum, site of a Turkish army base, is surrounded by volcanic mountains at an altitude of 6,500 feet.

About three hours before the Turkish tremor struck, a quake hit the Hindu Kush mountain range, 1,400 miles to the east on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. No casualties or damage were reported.

A strong quake also affected southwestern Japan Sunday, but it apparently caused no casualties or damage.

In 1939, a quake in Erzurum, 120 miles to the west of Erzurum, killed more than 20,000 people. In November 1976, a quake in Muradive, a district of Van province, killed more than 4,000 people.

A quarantine was imposed on dozens of devastated villages in eastern Turkey to halt the spread of disease from the carcasses of animals killed in last Sunday's earthquake, which cost the lives of an estimated 1,600 people and left 30,000 homeless. Authorities said an estimated 30,000 animals died in the quake. Survivors of some damaged villages were evacuated as work crews sprayed disinfectants on the ruins in an effort to reduce the threat of disease.

Los Angeles Times Nov 4, 1983

Crews aid Turkish quake victims

Santa Barbara (CA) News-Press November 1, 1983

ERZURUM, Turkey (AP) — Battling frigid weather, rescue teams erected tents today and fed tens of thousands of people left homeless by the massive earthquake that killed at least 1,233 people in eastern Turkey.

President Kenan Evren, after inspecting the disaster area, called for donations of money and supplies to help the survivors, many of whom were huddled in donated tents and makeshift shelters to ward off the winter chill and snow.

"The destruction brought upon the region by the quake is greater than we thought at the beginning," Evren said. "We fear that loss of life and property will rise."

The powerful jolts that rolled through the eastern provinces of Erzurum and Kars Sunday also left at least 534 others seriously injured and destroyed 15,000 houses,

leaving an estimated 75,000 people homeless.

Rescue workers continued to clear the rubble and villagers buried the dead.

Village Affairs Minister Munir Guney, here to supervise relief work, said some of the homeless would be temporarily settled in public buildings. He promised to erect prefabricated houses quickly.

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officials was preservation of stray livestock whose owners were killed by the quake.

Cattle and sheep-raising is the main source of income in the region.

Lt. Gen. Irfan Yay, commander of Turkey's 9th Army Corps in the area and in charge of rescue operations led by military units, warned the people not to sell their livestock at deflated prices to "opportunists sure to flock to the area."

He said livestock would be bought by the state, either to be slaughtered for meat or to be sent to state farms.

The quake was the worst to hit Turkey since 1976 when a major quake in the same region killed 8,337 people. Turkey's coastal areas and the entire eastern region sit atop an earthquake-prone belt known as the Anatolian fault.

Earthquakes have claimed 70,000 lives in Turkey in this century.

Mild Earthquake Reported in Maine

San Francisco Chronicle
Washington Mon., Oct. 31, 1983

A small earthquake hit south-central Maine yesterday, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

There were no reports of damage or injuries.

Associated Press

Greece Reports Quake

ATHENS (UPI) — A tremor registering 4.4 on the Richter scale shook an area 60 miles south of Athens in the Aegean sea Sunday, but there were no reports of damage or injuries, the Athens Seismological Institute said.

Los Angeles Times Dec 26, 1983

Epidemics feared in quake-torn Turkey

Anchorage Daily News

By VICTOR SIMPSON
The Associated Press

ERZURUM, Turkey — Search dogs found 15 more bodies in earthquake-devastated eastern Turkey Tuesday, and the governor of Erzurum province said epidemics were feared because hundreds of corpses were still unburied.

The quake killed at least 1,233 people Sunday and left 75,000 homeless as it rolled through the provinces of Erzurum and Kars, near the Soviet border, officials said.

In Muratbagi village, the worst-hit settlement, there weren't enough survivors to bury the dead. At least 465 died of a population of about 950.

Women placed planks over a mud-filled field beside a narrow dirt road that is Muratbagi's only connection to the outside world.

On the planks lay the bodies of 35 women and children waiting the arrival of an imam, a Moslem prayer leader, and for more manpower to dig fresh graves on a hillside plot.

Most of the dead in Muratbagi were women and children. When the quake struck at 7:12 a.m., the men were

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already in the fields to tend their animals or at morning prayers at the village mosque.

A 50-year-old man, limping and with his head bandaged, wailed "Allah — please give them back," as he looked down on the bodies of his children, two sons aged six and seven.

A few yards away a young woman, wearing a white covering on her head, clutched to her bosom framed pictures of her two daughters, aged five and six, both killed. She stared at the pictures and then hugged them.

A Swiss disaster relief team with specially trained dogs searched through the ruins but only came up with more bodies.

"The dogs found 15 bodies. There was nobody alive under the ruins," said a team member, Jean Pierre Racle.

A Turkish colonel directing rescue operations said probably even more were buried under the rubble and that the search would continue.

Army relief units moved in cranes and heavy earth-moving machinery over the main highway to Iran on the way to isolated villages miles down winding dirt roads.

Quake's aftershocks kill 2 more in Turkey

Santa Barbara, Calif., News-Press, Wednesday, November 2, 1983

ERZURUM, Turkey (AP) — Four aftershocks of a devastating quake that destroyed 44 villages jolted eastern Turkey overnight, killing two more people and frightening thousands of survivors sleeping outside in near-freezing weather.

The martial-law government said later today that search teams using cranes and bulldozers dug 93 more bodies from the rubble of Sunday's quake, raising the total number of dead from the series of tremors to 1,332.

Monitoring stations recorded four tremors of medium intensity that began late Tuesday night. The quakes shook villages northeast and southeast of Erzurum, a provincial capital, and in Horasan region, believed to be the epicenter of the Sunday temblor.

Turkish military officials said two bodies were found in the rubble of collapsed homes in Kalebogazi, a village between Erzurum and the Soviet border. Kalebogazi had escaped the devastation of the earlier quake.

No Richter scale reading, a measure of intensity of ground movement, was immediately available for the latest aftershocks.

A Swiss disaster team using search dogs found 15 bodies on Tuesday.

"There was nobody alive under the ruins," said Jean Pierre Racle, a team member.

The massive quake on Sunday rocked four townships and surrounding villages in Erzurum and Kars provinces near the Soviet border. Some 30,000 cattle and sheep, the source of main income for the peasants, were killed.

Trucks brought blankets and tents Tuesday to the survivors. The government said more blankets and tents, along with tons of tea, were on their way.

U.S. Ambassador Robert Strausz-Hupe traveled to Erzurum and announced that Washington was sending 1,000 tents, 156,000 blankets, 250 plastic sheets, 50 stoves, 50 gas cans, 2,000 water containers and two water pumps worth a total of \$2 million.

In Bonn, the West German Red Cross said it sent more than 20 tons of relief supplies, including blankets, sleeping bags, tents and medicine.

Rain and sleet hampered efforts to dig out survivors of Sunday's earthquake, but today was sunny and temperatures were above freezing.

Turkey's largest newspaper, Hürriyet, said hundreds of people nationwide had called to seek adoption of children orphaned by the quake.

Quake upsets Turk election

ERZURUM, Turkey — Authorities preparing Turkey for elections to return civilian rule went through lists of election officials killed in a massive earthquake as medical teams worked today to prevent outbreaks of disease in the devastated east. The quake threw a pall of mourning over an otherwise insipid contest among three political parties seeking a majority in a 400-member Parliament to be elected Sunday, Turkey's first vote since the military seized power in 1980. In eastern Turkey, medical teams fearful of outbreaks of disease worked to evacuate tent cities set up outside villages demolished by the quake. Dozens of the 77 stricken villages were isolated while military crews poured disinfectant into wells and sprinkled lime over the rubble and suspected remains of carcasses of farm animals, thousands of which died in the quake.

Nov. 4, 1983 ☆☆ S.F. EXAMINER

Tremors shake Turkish province as country begins recovering from last week's earthquake

November 3, 1983, The Anchorage Times

Associated Press

Erzurum, Turkey — Strong tremors rocked the western Turkish province of Bursa early today but caused no injuries or damage, Istanbul's Kandilli Observatory reported. Relief agencies sent more food and shelter into the villages of eastern Turkey that were struck by a killer earthquake five days ago.

A U.S. Air Force C-130 transport plane loaded with tents, blankets and other emergency supplies landed in this earthquake-stricken area and officials said four more U.S. planes were expected by the end of the day. The supplies include stoves

water purification equipment, mobile kitchens and forklifts.

The earthquake Sunday destroyed 44 villages in the eastern provinces of Erzurum and Kars, killing 1,330 people and leaving 33,000 homeless.

The aid was flown in from an American base in Italy aboard C-141 cargo planes to the U.S. base at Incirlik in southeastern Turkey. The supplies were then transferred to C-130s, because the larger C-141s could not land at the local airport.

Relief supplies also have poured in from the International Red Cross, West Germany, Austria, Pakistan, Britain and Jor-

dan. Turks have donated blood and materials estimated at more than \$3 million. Saudi Arabia sent \$10 million to be used for housing.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. William Roof, who is directing U.S. relief efforts here, and U.S. Lt. Gen. Elmer Pindleton traveled to devastated villages in the Horasan region Wednesday for an inspection tour.

Students and faculty members of Ataturk University in Erzurum have joined relief efforts for survivors.

The university has contributed experts in preventive medicine, civil engineering and geology.