

Death Toll from Quake in Pakistan and Afghanistan Hits 339



Islamabad, October 28 (RHC)-- The death toll from a powerful 7.7-Richter earthquake that hit several regions in Pakistan and Afghanistan has risen to 339.

Afghan and Pakistani officials said on Tuesday that 258 people lost their lives in Pakistan and 78 in Afghanistan while three people were killed on the Indian side of the disputed region of Kashmir. The number is expected to rise further.

The temblor's epicenter was located 73 kilometers south of Fayzabad, the capital of Afghanistan's sparsely populated Badakhshan province near the border with Pakistan, Tajikistan and China. It struck the two neighboring countries on Monday.

The figures come as rescuers are still trying to reach quake-stricken areas across Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, in Nangarhar province on the eastern border with Pakistan, officials said at least 28 people were killed and 141 were wounded. More than 1,000 homes are also destroyed.

Over 2,000 people have sustained injuries in Monday's quake in Pakistan that also damaged more than 4,000 homes. Casualties and damage are also being assessed in the country.

Pakistan was last struck by a magnitude-7.6 quake in October 2005, which killed more than 80,000 people and left more than 3 million homeless.

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