

Himalayan Children's Fund News

Dear Friends,

On the morning of April 14th, a 6.9 earthquake hit the Yushu area of Tibet. This is where Thrangu Rinpoche's monastery is located. In addition to the massive destruction in the surrounding area Thrangu Rinpoche's monastery was hit hard. Information is still incomplete at this time, but I am sending you the latest communication from Lama Pema, Rinpoche's Lama in the Vancouver, BC center.

It might be helpful to know that HCF has been sending yearly donations to Lodroe Nyima Rinpoche, the abbot of Thrangu Monastery in Tibet, so we are in close contact and already set up for wiring funds.

If you would like to make donations towards the relief and rebuilding of Thrangu Monastery in Tibet please do so by sending a check to the Himalayan Children's Fund or going online to <http://www.rinpoche.com/hcf3.html>

Please be certain to enter Thrangu Monastery relief/rebuild as the designation for your gift.

This information will soon be posted on rinpoche.com and you will be able to pass it on to others.

Thank you for your help, concern and your prayers.

Sincerely,
Debra Ann

Below you will find Lama Pema's letter and a news clipping that shows Lodro Nyima Rinpoche which was sent from Malaysia.

Dear Dharma Friends,

I am sure many of you heard about the unfortunate earthquake that took place on April 14th morning which hit the QingHai province, Tibet. Currently over 85% of the buildings were destroyed and the death toll is just coming in. Over 617 people died from this disaster and over 10,000 people injured.

I got in touch with our QingHai Thrangu Monastery and was informed that 12 lamas have passed away. Fortunately, most lamas were practicing in the new shrine all and were safe from the earthquake. However, most of our original monastery did not withstand the earthquake and now all the lamas are in a very difficult situation.

Thrangu Centers and all monasteries all over the world has started all the prayers for those affected by this earthquake. Over the past 24 hours all resident lamas have received word from H.E. Thrangu Rinpoche to meet in QingHai as soon as possible to support the community and the monks from this disaster. We will try our best to update everybody about the situation through our website.

Lama Pema

Quake hits west China

400 killed and thousands injured in remote region

XINING (China): Survivors from an earthquake that killed 400 people in a remote area of China faced a cold night without shelter, as rescuers using their bare hands searched for survivors.

Thousands were injured when the quake toppled mud-and-wood houses and school buildings in the northwestern province of Qinghai yesterday, but police managed to pull over 900 people alive from ruined buildings over the course of the day.

Many more are believed buried and forecasters predict wind and sleet in coming days, while seismologists warned of further aftershocks, adding to the trauma of victims preparing for a night in the open in the high-altitude zone.

Among the dead were children buried when the devastating quake measuring at least 6.9 rocked the predominantly Tibetan region earlier in the day, in scenes that brought back memories of a massive killer quake two years ago.

Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama offered prayers for those who died while Pope Benedict XVI called for "solidarity" with the victims and nations including Germany, Japan and France voiced shock and offered help.

About 10,000 people were injured in the quake, which disrupted telecommunications, knocked out electricity, toppled temples and triggered landslides, hampering rescue efforts in the mountainous area.

State media spoke of panicked residents fleeing their homes while others huddled for loved-ones trapped in the ruins in Yushu prefecture, the epicentre of the latest disaster to strike the world's most populous nation.

President Hu Jintao called for all-out efforts to save as many people as possible, with over 5,000 rescuers including soldiers rushing to the disaster zone while the government said it would provide over US\$29mil (RM131mil) in aid.

About 400 people have been confirmed dead, Xinhua news agency reported, quoting Huang Limin, a top official in Yushu, who said many people were still buried in the rubble as aftershocks rumbled on.

"There are 10 people in my family and only four of us escaped. One of



All that's left: People walking on the ruins of collapsed buildings after the quake in Yushu County, China's northwest Qinghai Province yesterday. — AP

my relatives died. All the others are buried under the rubble," Samdrup Gyatso, 17, told Xinhua after his two-storey home crumbled.

The US Geological Survey put the quake at a magnitude of 6.9 while the China Earthquake Administration measured it at 7.1, official media saying it was felt strongly in neighbouring regions including Tibet.

Zhaohuaxia, an official in Jiegu, seat of the Yushu government, reported a lack of tents, medicines and medical equipment for the survivors.

The quake wreaked havoc on the flimsy earth and wood houses near the epicentre, which lies around 800km or at least 12 hours by road from the provincial capital.

"The injured are everywhere in the street, a lot of people are bleeding from head wounds," Xinhua quoted Zhaohuaxia as saying, adding that more than 85% of houses collapsed in Jiegu.

Some sturdier concrete structures were also toppled, and Xinhua reported that a reservoir was cracked, sending workers scrambling to prevent any outflow of water. — AFP



Helping out: An injured woman being rescued after the quake in Yushu County yesterday. — AP

Fleeing schoolkids buried by rubble

BEIJING: Panicked schoolchildren fled their dorms when China's latest killer quake struck but for many, it was too late as they were buried by falling debris.

People also spoke of their desperate attempts to flee collapsing buildings with one mother grabbing her son and racing from her shaking home, not even stopping to dress the two-year-old.

"Morning sessions had not begun when the earthquake happened — some pupils ran out of dorms alive and those who had not escaped in time were buried," a teacher surnamed Chang told state media.

Her school in Yushu prefecture — where a quake of at least 6.9-magnitude struck — collapsed and at least five pupils out of the 1,000 there were known to have died, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

The scene was reminiscent of the huge quake in May 2008 in Sichuan province, where thousands of children died when their shoddily constructed schools collapsed on them, which led to huge controversy in China.

Zhu Liang, a driver in Yushu who saw half the buildings of another school collapse, said he had no idea how many students there had died.

"Students just got up and were yet to go to class when the quake happened. I recovered several bodies from the debris and found they were fully dressed," he said.

The quake in the remote, northwestern province of Qinghai has killed around 400 people so far and injured thousands, toppling rickety mud-and-wood houses and schools, knocking out electricity and triggering landslides.

Terin Drolma said she dashed into the rooms where her two-year-old son was sleeping as the quake rocked her house and managed to escape.

"I did not even put any clothes on him... I don't know what happened to the house as I have not returned home yet," she said.

Residents in Jiegu, where more than 85% of houses had collapsed, fled the town in cars, mini-vans and tractors in panic as a series of strong aftershocks rocked the area. — AFP

Visiting monks receive devastating news

PETALING JAYA: Lodro Nyima Rinpoche, the abbot of the Tharangu Monastery in Yushu County in Qinghai, China, lived his entire life in the area.

He has never experienced any major earthquakes there although Qinghai province is an earthquake-prone area.

Yesterday, while visiting Malaysia to conduct the 1008 offerings of 18 Ahat Puja, he received devastating news that his monastery had collapsed in the 6.9 magnitude earthquake.

"I was told that at least 12 monks from our monastery, which has 240 monks, have been killed and many more are still buried under the rubble," he said.

Lodro Nyima is here with monks Dai Lai Lama, Karma Lekshe, Ang Sea Lama and Ani Jangchop Dolma.

He said Dai Lai Lama's older brother and Karma Lekshe's brother-in-law and niece were also casualties in the disaster.

Lodro Nyima said two main temples, a Buddhist school and many houses for monks in the monastery were destroyed in the quake.

"We hope to go back as soon as possible to access at the situation there and help those who are affected," he said.

The five managed to buy air tickets and flew back to China later yesterday but they were unsure if they would be allowed to go back to the affected area.

Those who are interested to help can call the Petaling Jaya Tharangu Dharma Society at 03-7958 8548 or 012-3373 438.



Concerned monks: Lodro Nyima (centre) together with other visiting monks relating the news that their monastery had collapsed.