

Strong quake kills girl, ruins homes in Indonesia

January 22 2013, by Fakhurradzie Gade

(AP)—A strong, shallow earthquake rocked parts of western Indonesia early Tuesday, killing a 9-year-old girl, panicking residents and ruining homes. Several other people were injured.

Indonesia's meteorology and geophysics agency put the preliminary magnitude at 6.0 and said the inland quake caused no tsunami. It was centered southwest of the city of Banda Aceh and 10 miles (6 kilometers) beneath the earth's crust, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The quake hit about 5:22 a.m. (22:22 GMT Monday), rattling people awake in towns and villages across the [Sumatra island](#)'s northern tip. A magnitude-4.7 aftershock quake followed a few minutes later.

Sarjani Abdullah, the district head of Pidie, said a 9-year-old girl was found dead in the ruins of her home. At least seven other people, including a 3-year-old, suffered cuts and [broken bones](#).

Aceh province's disaster mitigation agency said at least 30 houses and a mosque were ruined in Pidie Jaya district and hundreds of people were moved to temporary shelters as authorities surveyed the extent of the damage.

Some electricity poles were knocked down in Tangse village, crashing into homes and causing blackouts.

"It's scared us. ... We are still traumatized by the earthquake. My wife was screaming, my children crying," said Masriadi, a Tangse resident.

Fearing [aftershocks](#), many people refused to go back inside for hours.

Indonesia straddles a series of [fault lines](#) that makes the vast archipelago prone to volcanic and [seismic activity](#).

A giant quake off the country on Dec. 26, 2004, triggered a tsunami in the Indian Ocean that killed 230,000 people, more than half of them in Indonesia's westernmost province of Aceh.

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