

Typhoon leaves one dead, messes up Christmas in Philippines

December 26 2016, by Jim Gomez



A man cleans the trash along a flooded area outside a church caused by rains from Typhoon Nock-Ten in Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday, Dec. 26, 2016. The powerful typhoon slammed into the eastern Philippines on Christmas Day, spoiling the biggest holiday in Asia's largest Catholic nation, where a governor offered roast pig to entice villagers to abandon family celebrations for emergency shelters. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

A typhoon that spoiled Christmas Day in parts of the Philippines weakened slightly on Monday as it roared toward a congested region near the country's capital, officials said.

They said Typhoon Nock-Ten killed at least one person and cut power to five provinces as well as displacing thousands of villagers and travelers in Asia's Catholic bastion.

A farmer died after being pinned by a fallen tree in Quezon province southeast of Manila a few hours after the [typhoon](#) slammed into the country Sunday night. It then blew westward across mountainous and island provinces, damaging homes, uprooting trees and knocking down communications, according to [officials](#) and local news reports.

Although it has slightly weakened, the typhoon still has sustained winds of up 140 kilometers (90 miles) per hour, government forecasters said, and was moving toward the heavily populated provinces of Batangas and Cavite, south of Manila on Monday morning.

Tens of thousands of villagers, forced to spend Christmas in crowded and powerless emergency shelters, started to return home to deal with the damage after the typhoon struck during the country's biggest holiday.

"They have left the evacuation centers and we're seeing the sun again," said Ann Ongjoco, mayor of Guinobatan town in Albay province, one of five provinces that lost electricity.



A Filipino woman crosses floodwaters caused by rains from Typhoon Nock-Ten in Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday, Dec. 26, 2016. The powerful typhoon slammed into the eastern Philippines on Christmas Day, spoiling the biggest holiday in Asia's largest Catholic nation, where a governor offered roast pig to entice villagers to abandon family celebrations for emergency shelters. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

But she said her town, where more than 17,600 villagers fled to shelters in schools, will not be able to resume the holiday celebrations because of the post-typhoon mess. "Many houses made of light materials were destroyed," she told The Associated Press by telephone.

The typhoon was one of the strongest to hit the Philippines since Typhoon Haiyan wreaked death and devastation in the central regions in 2013, but officials in some provinces found it difficult to convince

people to abandon their Christmas celebrations and head for the shelters before the typhoon hit. Some officials said they had to impose forced evacuations.

In the past 65 years, seven typhoons have struck the Philippines on Christmas Day, according to the government's weather agency.

Josefina Nao, who evacuated to a Guinobatan school with her six children, grandchildren and siblings, said it was one of her bleakest Christmas holidays, but that poor people like her did not have much choice.



People brave the rain and wind brought about by typhoon Nock-Ten a day after Christmas Monday, Dec. 26, 2016 at suburban Paranaque city, southeast of Manila, Philippines. The powerful typhoon slammed into the eastern Philippines on Christmas Day, spoiling the biggest holiday in Asia's largest Catholic nation,

where a governor offered roast pig to entice villagers to abandon family celebrations for emergency shelters. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

She said town officials tried to cheer evacuees by distributing holiday food.

"I wish it was a merrier Christmas, but this is our best option because we'll all be safe together," the 60-year-old told the AP by phone from a classroom-turned-storm shelter that was void of any Christmas lights or decorations.

About 20 typhoons and storms, mostly from the Pacific, lash the Philippines each year, making the poor country of more than 100 million people one of the most disaster-prone in the world.

In November 2013, Haiyan struck the central Philippines with ferocious power, leaving more than 7,300 people dead or missing and displacing more than 5 million after leveling entire villages despite days of dire warnings by [government officials](#).



A man wades along a flooded street caused by rains from Typhoon Nock-Ten in Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday, Dec. 26, 2016. The powerful typhoon slammed into the eastern Philippines on Christmas Day, spoiling the biggest holiday in Asia's largest Catholic nation, where a governor offered roast pig to entice villagers to abandon family celebrations for emergency shelters. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)



A passenger jeep navigates a flooded street caused by rains from Typhoon Nock-Ten in Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday, Dec. 26, 2016. The powerful typhoon slammed into the eastern Philippines on Christmas Day, spoiling the biggest holiday in Asia's largest Catholic nation, where a governor offered roast pig to entice villagers to abandon family celebrations for emergency shelters. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)



People brave the rain and wind brought about by typhoon Nock-Ten, a day after Christmas Monday, Dec. 26, 2016 at suburban Paranaque city southeast of Manila, Philippines. The powerful typhoon slammed into the eastern Philippines on Christmas Day, spoiling the biggest holiday in Asia's largest Catholic nation, where a governor offered roast pig to entice villagers to abandon family celebrations for emergency shelters.(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)



A police car is parked along a flooded street caused by rains from Typhoon Nock-Ten as vendors selling handicrafts including Christmas decorations clean rubbish in Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday, Dec. 26, 2016. The powerful typhoon slammed into the eastern Philippines on Christmas Day, spoiling the biggest holiday in Asia's largest Catholic nation, where a governor offered roast pig to entice villagers to abandon family celebrations for emergency shelters. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)



Vehicles navigate a flood-prone area caused by rains from Typhoon Nock-Ten in Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines on Monday, Dec. 26, 2016. The powerful typhoon slammed into the eastern Philippines on Christmas Day, spoiling the biggest holiday in Asia's largest Catholic nation, where a governor offered roast pig to entice villagers to abandon family celebrations for emergency shelters. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

© 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Typhoon leaves one dead, messes up Christmas in Philippines (2016, December 26) retrieved 23 April 2024 from

<https://phys.org/news/2016-12-typhoon-dead-messes-christmas-philippines.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.