

Indonesia's Mt. Sinabung shoots column of smoke and ash into sky

May 7 2019



Disaster agency officials said the eruption has the "potential" to affect flights, but it had not issued a formal notice for planes to avoid the area

An Indonesian volcano erupted Tuesday, sending a massive column of ash and smoke 2,000 metres (6,500 feet) into the air, coating local villages in debris.

Mount Sinabung on Sumatra island—which has been rumbling since 2010 and saw a deadly eruption in 2016—spewed the thick plume after activity picked up recent days.

Disaster agency officials said the eruption has the "potential" to affect flights, but it had not issued a formal notice for planes to avoid the area.

Local residents living along rivers near the crater were advised to be on alert for possible lava flows.

There were no reports of injuries or deaths after the latest eruption and the disaster agency did not issue an evacuation order.

No one lives inside a previously announced no-go zone around the volcano.

Sinabung roared back to life in 2010 for the first time in 400 years. After another period of inactivity it erupted once more in 2013, and has remained highly active since.

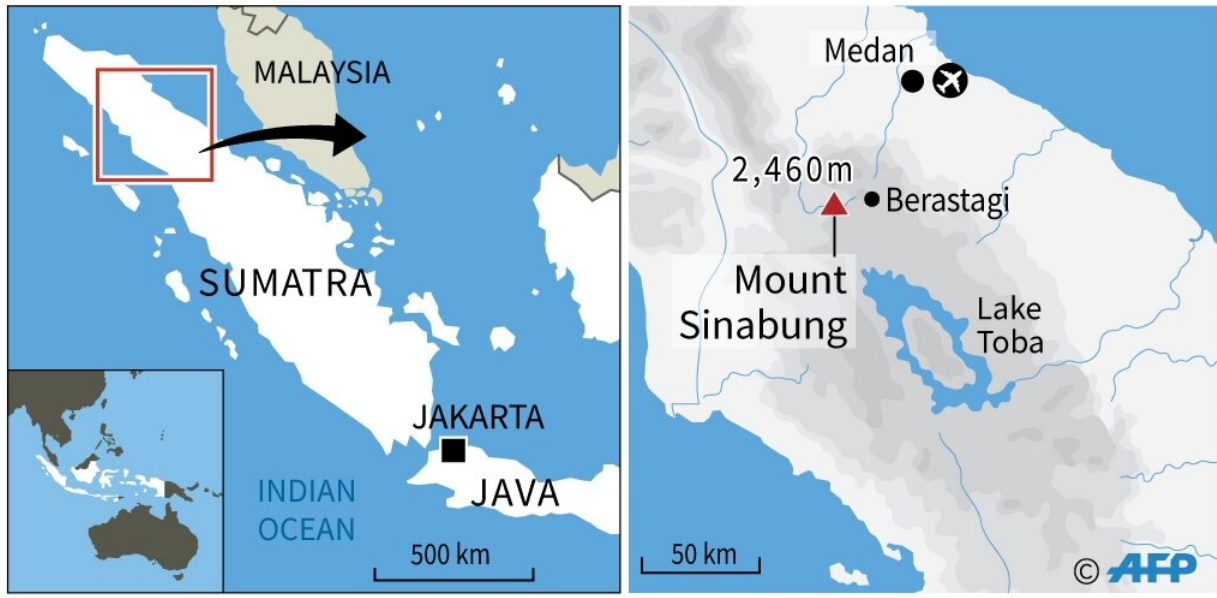
In 2016, seven people died in one of Sinabung's eruptions, while a 2014 eruption killed 16.

Last year, a volcano in the strait between Java and Sumatra islands erupted, causing an underwater landslide that unleashed a tsunami which killed over 400 people.

Indonesia is home to around 130 active volcanoes due to its position on the "Ring of Fire", a belt of tectonic plate boundaries circling the Pacific

Ocean where frequent seismic activity occurs.

Indonesia volcano



Mount Sinabung, which erupted Tuesday, sending a massive column of ash and smoke into the air, coating local villages in debris

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