

One dead as typhoon Doksuri batters Philippines

July 26 2023, by Cecil MORELLA



A flooded bridge is seen in Cagayan province, Philippines, after a river overflowed due to heavy rains brought by Typhoon Doksuri.

A powerful storm pounded the northern Philippines on Wednesday,

killing at least one person, toppling trees and knocking out power as thousands sheltered with neighbors or in emergency evacuation centers.

Typhoon Doksuri was packing maximum sustained [wind speeds](#) of 175 kilometers an hour (110 mph) as it hovered over waters around Dalupiri Island, off the northern tip of the main island of Luzon, the state weather agency said in its latest update at 0300 GMT.

The agency warned of "violent, life-threatening conditions" as severe winds and heavy rain pounded the lightly populated region.

A woman selling bread rolls died when she was hit by a falling coconut tree in Ramon municipality in the northern province of Isabela on Wednesday, provincial disaster official Constante Foronda told AFP.

Rey Aguinaldo, a retired government official in the coastal municipality of Pasuquin in Ilocos Norte province, said, "The wind and rain were so strong overnight I could not sleep well."

"When I got up today I saw fallen trees and broken branches outside. We have no electricity," Aguinaldo told AFP.

Doksuri had been a [super typhoon](#) as it swept across the Pacific Ocean on Tuesday but weakened as it neared the Philippines.

It is expected to weaken further as it moves across the South China Sea, grazing Taiwan as it heads towards southeast China.

High waves lashed Taiwan's southeastern coast on Wednesday, with the Central Weather Bureau issuing warnings and heavy rain advisories.

China also issued its highest alert for Doksuri, stopping trains and calling [fishing boats](#) to shore as the storm approaches.

It is expected to weaken before it makes landfall on Friday morning.



A bridge is washed out in Cagayan province, Philippines, after a river overflowed due to heavy rains brought by Typhoon Doksuri.

Thousands flee homes

In the Philippines, around 12,000 people were evacuated from their homes in Cagayan province, including 431 in the Babuyan islands, following warnings of three-meter storm surges, Cagayan provincial disaster official Ruelie Rapsing told AFP.

Dalupiri is one of the five islands that make up the tiny Babuyan archipelago.

Flooding has also been reported in the coastal municipalities of Lallo, Pamplona and Claveria.

About 1,500 people were also evacuated from coastal communities in neighboring Isabela, Foronda said.

"We won't allow them to go home until we get the all clear from the experts," he said.

Some evacuees have sheltered with neighbors who had concrete houses, while others were taken to municipal halls.

"The roof of the Sanchez Mira municipal hall was blown off," Rapsing said.

"The windows of an evacuation center there also broke so we had to move them to multi-purpose halls back in their villages."

The weather agency also warned the typhoon had intensified the seasonal southwest monsoon, bringing heavy rains across the rest of Luzon and the central islands.

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