

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2010 2:57 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Situation Report No. 3 - Chile Earthquake

From: OpsAlert
Sent: Sun Feb 28 14:30:42 2010
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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

SITUATION REPORT No. 3
CHILE EARTHQUAKE MONITORING GROUP MGCI01
 Sunday, February 28, 2010
 1400 EST

DEATH TOLL OVER 700, GOC ASSESSING DAMAGES

- (U) President Bachelet announced more than 700 people have been killed in the quake, report the media. All official Americans have been accounted for, confirms Embassy Santiago. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon, CNN en Español)*
- (SBU) Seventeen locally-engaged staff and 36 contract employees remain unaccounted for due to poor communications. Many Embassy families are still without electricity, reliable telephone service, or internet access. Land lines in the Santiago area remain irregular.
- (SBU) Aftershocks continue but are diminishing in intensity and are moving northward. The media is relaying Chilean ONEMI (FEMA-equivalent) information. The government requests the population remain in place. Facebook is offering assistance in public outreach. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon, MGCI01/R e-mail)*
- (SBU) Communications with the affected area (Concepcion, Talca and the Juan Fernandez Islands) remain erratic. Concepcion airport will be closed for a week. The main highway south from Concepcion is out due to a collapsed bridge, and land routes to the area have been damaged and bridges are down. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon, Embassy Santiago SitRep#4)*
- (U) Some looting has begun; police are on patrol to prevent further lawlessness. The government is providing food and water via helicopter. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon, Embassy Santiago SitRep#4)*

STATUS OF EMBASSY/AMCITS

- Six of the seven Fulbrighters in-country have been accounted for; the Fulbrighter in Concepcion has not yet been located. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon, Embassy Santiago SitRep#4)*
- (U) The Embassy will be open for limited services on March 1. Visa interviews will be cancelled. *(Embassy Santiago SitRep#4)*
- (SBU) No American deaths have yet been reported.

(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon, Embassy Santiago SitRep#4)

- (U) Embassy Santiago will maintain a 24-hour switchboard with bilingual operators at 56-2-330-3000. **(Embassy Santiago SitRep#4)**

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

- (SBU) The Chile Earthquake Monitoring Group is in contact with the U.S. military, HHS and USAID/OFDA to confirm availability of medical assistance, including field hospitals, as appropriate. An official request for a field hospital has been made by the Chilean government. **(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)**
- (SBU) The EU has offered 3 million Euros in disaster assistance and search and rescue, which the government has so far declined. Germany and Puerto Rico also have made offers of assistance. **(MGCI01 e-mail)**

SANTIAGO AIRPORT STATUS/OPERATIONS

- (SBU) Santiago airport remains closed to everything but military flights. International commercial flights likely will not resume until March 5. **(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon, Embassy Santiago SitRep#4)**
- (SBU) The government is considering using airports in northern Chile for international flights; however, those airports are not equipped with customs and immigration systems. **(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)**
- (SBU) The Embassy intends to send staff to Santiago airport to assist American citizens gathering there to understand Spanish-language public service announcements and to inform them of lodging availability. **(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)**

TSUNAMI DEATHS

(SBU) Six people are dead and 10 are missing after a wave hit the inhabited portions of the Juan Fernandez Islands. Chile has confirmed that two American citizens unaccounted for are not among the dead or missing. **(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)**

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