

Relief workers rush to help quake victims in southwestern China

■ **QUAKE:** At least 238 people were killed and nearly 14,000 injured in Saturday's magnitude-7 quake in Yunnan province

BEIJING (AP) — Medics and soldiers rushed into scenic Lijiang in southwestern China on Sunday to help survivors of a powerful earthquake that killed at least 238 people and injured nearly 14,000.

The floors of two local hospitals were filled with injured people, the state-run Xinhua news agency said. Doctors also worked outdoors and in temporary clinics set up in tents.

Television reports showed medics attending to bloodied victims who lay on

mattresses on a floor, covered with thick quilts to protect them from temperatures that hovered near freezing.

On Monday, tens of thousands of injured and homeless people sat huddled under quilts or dug through the rubble of their devastated mud and rock homes.

One young rescue worker sat on the rubble embracing a quake victim and weeping.

"People from all walks of life have been quick to act to help," said Chen Jie of the Yunnan province government. Teams of relief workers reached all areas that were heavily damaged, she said.

The television report said 238 people died, 3,700 were seriously injured, and more than 10,000 suffered minor injuries.

A male foreign tourist was among the severely injured, but his name and nationality were not immediately known, Xinhua said. Four other foreigners suffered minor injuries, the news agency said.

Most of the fatalities occurred in nearby Dayan town and in the rural areas of White Sand and Gold Mountain, Chen said.

The picturesque town of Lijiang, 1,300 miles southwest of Beijing, is one of Yunnan's most popular tourist areas.

But the traditional homes that decorate the mountainous region are vulnerable to earthquakes because they are made of mud bricks, with heavy roofs of rounded gray tiles on wooden rafters.

Saturday's magnitude-7 quake damaged

the old quarter of Lijiang, a maze of narrow, twisting cobblestone streets and fast-flowing canals crossed by arched stone bridges.

About 10 percent of the town's old one- and two-story wooden buildings with pillars and balconies were destroyed, the report said.

Most of Lijiang's residents were evacuated to temporary shelters set up in tents, and the government was providing quilts, water and food, Chen said.

The quake collapsed nearly 180,000 buildings across the stricken area, cut off communication and, in some areas, knocked out water, electricity and roads, Chen said.

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Afrikaner's TV programs cut in S. Africa

■ **Language:** The new format leaves one channel primarily in English while Afrikaners fight for space on the other two.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Language is power, and turbulence over tongues fills South Africa's history. A new skirmish started Sunday night, when the South African Broadcasting Corp. made deep cuts in Afrikaans television programming in favor of indigenous languages.

Angered by this perceived assault on their culture from South Africa's first black-led government, Afrikaners are taking the SABC to court, threatening to hold back their TV taxes and launch their own satellite television station.

The battle forms part of a rear-guard action by conservatives to defend their "taal," or tongue, in privileged bastions — the military, civil service, schools — where they held sway under apartheid.

The struggle reflects anxiety over the place of South Africa's so-called "white tribe" under President Nelson Mandela's reign — whether to stubbornly stress a unique identity, including

demands for a separate mini-state, or to jump headlong into the ethnic mix.

Afrikaners, who are white, account for about 3.5 million of South Africa's 43 million people, and Afrikaans is the first language of most of the 1.5 million South Africans of mixed-race descent. An additional 10 million people speak the language or understand it. The activists suing SABC account for a small minority of Afrikaners, though many more harbor fears of their language diminishing.

"Afrikaans is today not threatened, but it is under pressure," said Frits Kok, managing director of the Afrikaans Language and Culture Organization. "But when you put any culture under pressure, it grows."

The Afrikaans language evolved from Dutch, the language of the Afrikaners' 17th century forebears. Afrikaners view themselves as authentic Africans, rather than colonists, due to their long history on the continent.

And they felt as aggrieved as any native people by the British conquest of their republics at the turn of the century.

The Afrikaner-led National Party capitalized on anti-British resentment and won power in 1948, replacing one form of injustice with another — apartheid.

the system of white-minority rule that denied nearly all rights to South Africa's black majority.

Among them was language. English and Afrikaans were the only official tongues, though more than half the population understood neither. Native African languages had status only in the so-called "homelands," or reservations where blacks lived.

Millions did not obey, flocking to townships where their children received education in English and Afrikaans. The apartheid regime's plans to make Afrikaans the only language of instruction triggered days of rioting in Soweto in 1976 that shook the government to its roots.

"We were taught Afrikaans as a subject. It was always the most unpopular," recalls Tshepiso Mashinini, now urbanization director of Johannesburg's metropolitan council.

"What's happening with the television is a triumph in the sense that our culture wasn't assimilated by Afrikaans," he said.

The new format leaves one channel primarily in English.

Afrikaans will fight for space on the other two. Depending on who is counting, Afrikaans language programming will account for just 1 to 4 percent of airtime.

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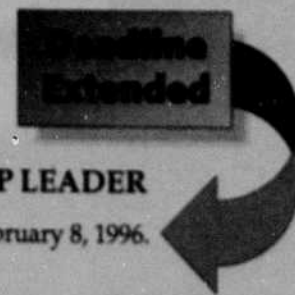


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