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# Disaster strikes El Salvador

By Niko Price  
 The Associated Press

SANTA TECLA, El Salvador — With the ground settling and time passing, rescuers said Monday that the chance of finding survivors from an earthquake that killed more than 400 people is slipping — though one man was freed after using his cell phone to call for help.

Hundreds of people remained buried beneath a mountain of rock and earth in the Las Colinas neighborhood here, some three miles west of the capital.

Residents complained that the government allowed landowners over the years to clear trees from the hillside, alleging that the lack of ground cover could leave those below vulnerable to landslides.

Saturday's magnitude-7.6 quake loosened that hillside, burying the middle-class neighborhood at its base and bringing down some of the mansions above.

Although the largest number of deaths appeared to be in Las Colinas, the quake caused landslides across El Salvador, burying coffee workers and blocking roads. Numbers from official sources varied wildly.

The national emergency committee said at least 403 people were confirmed dead. But the emergency committee for the Santa Tecla region said 436 were dead here alone. The local committee said 366 remained missing — hundreds less than the figure given Saturday by the Red Cross.

Six other people were killed in neighboring Guatemala, and three more were freed dead.

With nearly 5,000 houses destroyed and tens of thousands more

damaged in El Salvador, many people were living with relatives or in shelters.

Others who still had homes lacked basic services. Water service was cut to as many as half of the country's 6 million people, the Pan-American Health Organization said.

The World Food Program began distributing food to 13,000 people and had enough to last two weeks. Officials planned to seek more donations.

Aftershocks continued to rock the country on Monday, frightening residents and knocking more debris onto highways. Many towns were reachable only by helicopter, and little was known about damage or deaths in isolated communities.

In Las Colinas, the city, environmentalists and residents had sued landowners and construction companies to stop the deforestation of the hillside. A judge had ruled against them, and angry residents on Monday argued that the resulting development had caused hundreds of deaths.

"What good does money do us if we are subjecting our children to something like this?" asked Santa Tecla Mayor Oscar Ortiz.

After two days of rescue efforts, officials pulled Sergio Moreno from beneath a pile of cinder blocks and earth late Sunday, raising hopes that more may be found alive. But kidney and heart failure left Moreno fighting for his life on Monday.

While buried, Moreno had used his cell phone to call for help. After 31 hours waiting to be freed, he began to lose faith. At one point, anguished, he told rescuers: "You stayed here to watch me die."

Army Maj. Jose Miranda said

there was little chance more survivors would be found, adding that the majority of those under the rubble who weren't killed instantly likely had already suffocated.

"Nonetheless, at 4 a.m. they pulled out a body that still had warm blood on it, so anything is possible," he said.

Kathia Machaca has lost all hope that her parents and two oldest daughters will be found alive. Rescuers found the body of one of her children, 5-year-old Kathia. But she has no information on the others.

Pulling a child's sock from the mud, she said: "I'm finding everything from the house except the most important things."

She has stayed at the spot where her parents' house used to be since the quake, and she vowed not to leave.

"I won't move from here until they find the bodies," she said, weeping.

Her daughter, who had been riding her bicycle when the earthquake struck, was found hugging a boy.

"Maybe she was afraid," Machaca said.

She was afraid to see her husband, an electrician in Los Angeles who was scheduled to arrive on Monday.

"I don't know what I'll tell him," she said. "This is hard."

Her brother, Oscar, 25, also lived at the house, but had been at work as a chauffeur when the quake struck.

"I ran home after the quake because I thought my mother would be worried about me, but ... " he said, pausing with tears running down his cheeks.

"I felt like I was dying."

## Labor

continued from page 1

unidentified college student was questioned by police who believe the student incited the protest, but Schmaedick did not know if the student attended the University.

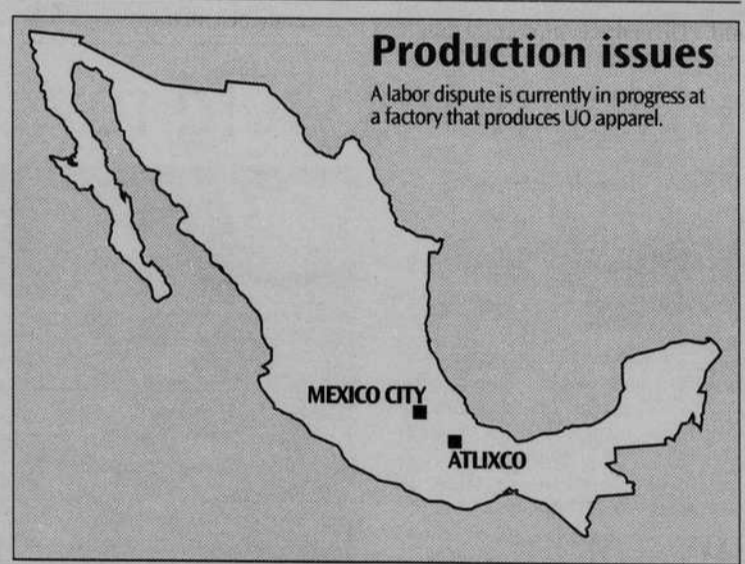
She said USAS is mainly supporting the protesters' demand that a Nike observer travel to Atlixco to see firsthand what the situation is there.

"I think Nike would find even their own code of conduct is violated," she said, adding that the University's licensing code of conduct has also likely been violated.

Schmaedick said about 800 workers went on strike Jan. 8 after a group of employees was fired when they demanded management pay their Christmas bonuses. She said a rally by protesters was then broken up by police on Friday night.

A statement released by Nike spokesman Vada Manager acknowledged there is a labor dispute at the Kukdong factory that is centered on a "dispute over catering/food contract." Manager stated that Nike will continue to monitor the situation through a member of its "compliance team" and through its contacts in other labor-monitoring groups.

"Nike will lend its assistance through contacts with management, mediators and other parties to help



to bring this matter to a peaceful resolution," Manager stated.

Matt Dyste, University director of trademark licensing, said the factory produces clothing for several universities, including the University of Oregon.

Dyste said the University is waiting for a report from Nike observers before it will make any official comment on the situation. He added that the University understands the dispute to be over personnel issues, but does not know any details about what is happening at the factory.

"We hate to comment until we have more information," he said.

Scott Nova, the newly hired execu-

utive director for the WRC, said the organization is aware of what is going on in the dispute through its contacts in other anti-sweatshop organizations.

Nova would not comment on the details of the dispute, but said the WRC viewed what is happening in Mexico as "a very serious situation."

"WRC has received allegations of serious problems," he said.

Nova joined the WRC in early December. Prior to joining the WRC, Nova served as executive director of the Preamble Center, a Washington, D.C.-based research and public policy organization.