

Rescuers Still Finding Bodies Beneath the Rubble in Italy



Rome, August 29 (RHC)-- Rescuers believe they have located more bodies in the ruined town of Amatrice, five days after a devastating earthquake in central Italy killed at least 290 people.

Residents of the town estimated that more than 10 people were still unaccounted for, with emergency services saying they had located three corpses in Amatrice's Hotel Roma, which was damaged by Wednesday's quake.

In the early hours of August 24, a powerful earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale hit Italy, and almost flattened scores of towns and villages in the central parts. The quake was followed by a series of aftershocks, the strongest of which measured 4.2, rattling the already hit areas.

Pope Francis, who led prayers for the dead in his weekly address in St Peter's Square in Rome on Sunday, said he wanted to visit the quake-hit villages "as soon as possible" to bring comfort to the survivors.

Museums across Italy donated proceeds from Sunday's ticket sales to help reconstruction efforts and soccer teams held a minute's silence before their weekend matches in tribute to the quake victims.

Over the weekend, Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Matteo Renzi joined hundreds of mourners at the first funeral for some 40 victims of the quake at a community gymnasium in the town of

Ascoli Piceno, the capital of March region.

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