

Death toll in Turkey rises to more than 29,500

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Ankara, February 12 (RHC)-- The death toll from the earthquakes in southeastern Turkey rose to 29,605, while the number of injured exceeded 80,000, the country's Emergency Management Agency reported today. Hopes of finding survivors in the rubble are also running out after six days of intense searches.

Official information indicates that some 6,000 buildings collapsed in the country during the earthquake, and the Public Prosecutor's Office created a special team to investigate negligence in the construction of the buildings.

Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay said this Sunday that so far there are more than 110 arrest warrants for those responsible for not complying with the standards established in the design of the buildings.

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Saturday that almost 26 million people were affected in some way by the violent earthquakes that shook Turkey and Syria recently. Of this figure, WHO reported 15 million in Turkey and nearly 11 million in Syria, a nation also devastated by a war imposed by the United States and its allies.

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