

Survivors who lost their homes in the earthquake leave Port-au-Prince on Friday in a massive exodus from the Haitian capital.

Quake sparks massive exodus from Haitian capital

AFP, Port-au-Prince

Standing at a bus station next to her husband and four children, Talulum Saint Fils looks determined to get out of the Haitian capital that some now refer to as "hell".

"I'd go to any place but away from this city," she repeats again and again.

And many Haitians share her scathing view of Port-au-Prince, massively destroyed by Tuesday's 7.0-magnitude earthquake.

Thousands of residents have fled the city in recent days, saying they were tired of sleeping in the street, afraid of being robbed by ruthless gangs, or simply fearful of new powerful aftershocks that might destroy buildings that still remain standing.

country, they gather what's left of their personal belongings and hit the road in the hope of waiting out the catastrophe in parts of Haiti that have suffered less damage. "The streets smell of death," Saint Fils

goes on in distress. "There is no assistance of any kind, and our children simply cannot live like animals." To buy one-way tickets to Fodernerg, a

small city three hours away from the capital, the family had to sell jewellery to come up with 400 gourdes (10 dollars) -twice the usual fare.

"I'd like to rebuild our house, but where will we get the money to do it?" she asks.

When the bus comes, it is packed, and those who could not squeeze themselves on it cannot hide their anger. But bus operators just shake their heads.

"We carry twice as many passengers as usual and we have doubled the fare because there is no gasoline and no security in the city," argues Jaino Nony, owner of several buses. "But that's the right price for getting out of hell."

Aanoz Richard, a 40-year-old baker who has become homeless after the quake, is livid because his savings were If the city dwellers have relatives in the not enough to pay the fare.

"Look, this is my house and this is my bed now," he says, pointing in despair toward the street.

Another bus packed with passengers and their belongings leaves the station, taking to a distant city a family who have spent 20 hours waiting for any available transportation and negotiating the fare.

"They say the government is receiving

millions of dollars in aid, but we have not seen a cent," laments Islaine, a mother of three children. "We and our children have been left in the street, and we have no other option but to leave, even though we

have spent our whole lives here." She says she would like to return to Port-au-Prince one day, but does not

know if that will be possible. The exodus is now visibly affecting the Haitian capital as some of the hardest-hit neighbourhoods look empty.

A woman who identified herself as Braubrin, a high school teacher, said she felt fortunate to be alive because the earthquake had completely destroyed her house.

But she does not hide her disappointment in the Haitian government.

"The Haitian governments have never done anything for the people," Braubrin says. "We are absolutely dependant of other countries. But we can't just sit here, surrounded by dead bodies, and wait for somebody to come and rescue us."

A half-empty bus from the province pulls into the station, bringing in farmer Alix Bonfils, who came to look for his missing brothers.

Quake worst disaster ever Water delivery disruptions confronted by UN

AFP, Geneva

The earthquake in Haiti is the worst disaster ever confronted by the United Nations, a spokeswoman said Saturday, pointing out that the catastrophe has left affected regions with little infrastructure.

"This is a historic disaster. We have never been confronted with such a disaster in the UN memory. It is like no other," Elisabeth Byrs, spokeswoman of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, told

She noted that at least local government structures remained after the 2004 tsunami hit Indonesia's Aceh province, but in Haiti, the town of Leogane, for example, had lost all its public services in the earthquake.

The earthquake "has decapitated the city," said Byrs, pointing out that this made coordination of aid efforts all the more difficult.

Byrs had earlier said that a UN assessment team surveying towns to the west of Portau-Prince found that up to 90 percent of the buildings in Leogane had been damaged or destroyed by Tuesday's 7.0 magnitude quake.

"No local government infrastructure remains," she

"According to the local police, between 5,000 to 10,000 people have been killed and most bodies are still in the collapsed buildings," she said.

The assessment team also surveyed Carrefour, with 334,000 inhabitants, and found that 40-50 percent of buildings in the worstaffected areas in the town had been destroyed.

The situation was similar in Gressier, which counts 25,000 inhabitants. Buildings . destroyed there included the police station.

"Search and rescue teams are in these areas," said Byrs, who stressed that there was an "urgent need for medical care."

destruction beyond the capigency response."

115 dogs were active in the . Since the quake, at least one water treatment plant was shut-

imperil quake survivors

AP, Port-au-Prince

Hundreds of thousands of Haitians are in desperate need of drinking water because of an earthquake-damaged municipal · pipeline and truck drivers either unable or unwilling to deliver

"Many drivers are afraid of being attacked if they go out, some drivers are still missing in the disaster and others are out there searching for missing relatives," said Dudu Jean, a 30-year-old driver who was attacked Friday when he drove into the capital's · sprawling Cite Soleil slum.

The lack of water has become one of the greatest dangers facing Haitians in part because earthquake survivors stay outdoors all day in the heat out of fear of aftershocks and unstable The situation in the three : buildings. While aid has started to pour in from around the towns indicate the scale of the · world, supplies are not quickly reaching all who need them.

destruction beyond the capi-tal, Byrs said, adding that the city of 3 million people was unreliable. Haiti's poorest live in disaster was the "worst in shacks with no plumbing and carry their water home in jugs terms of organisation and from public wells. Most people depend on water delivered by coordination of the emeritruckers, who get their water with the help of diesel pumps that · draw from a huge underground natural reservoir.

Some 27 international: "There's no shortage of water, the water's here, the trucks are search and rescue teams : here as you see," said Jean, who said his attackers let him go comprising 1,500 workers and unharmed after they recognised him.

disaster area and had already tered because of a lack of electricity. Pipes for the municipal pulled out a total of 58 survi- water system are believed damaged. No water is running in Cite vors from the debris, said Byrs. * Soleil, home to more than a million people.



Haitian looters fight for food on Friday in a street of Port-au-Prince. US military leaders said they would pour 10,000 troops in earthquake-battered Haiti in the coming days, warning that it was urgent to bring water and food to prevent deaths and unrest.

SUDAM MACH

People are bringing ashore supplies by rowboat from the first ferry after it arrived at the destroyed Jeremie Wharf in Port-au-Prince on Friday, three days after the killer quake. The ferry brings in bananas and coal.

Mass graves receive 4-year-old-boy President runs country unclaimed bodies

AFP, Port-au-prince

Every five minutes, a vehicle pulled up to the gates of Portau-Prince's cemetery, delivering another corpse to a mass grave dug by authorities trying to clear the broken city's streets of the dead.

"We have lost any dignity in

death," said Mezen Dieu Justi, an old man barely able to contain his nausea and tears before the grim spectacle. The massive earthquake

that struck Haiti on Tuesday has produced a steady stream of bodies, with estimates of the death toll well into the tens of thousands.

Many families confronted with their final glimpse of a

loved one simply lost control. "It's my father, my dear father," screamed one young woman, who fainted at the sight of the mass grave filled with human bodies.

possessed, lowered herself more comfortable among the forced her back out again. "We have lost our senses.

Death has driven us insane," said one Haitian, whose relative's body had been transported to the grave for burial. "For three days my sister

was dead in her house. Finally: we brought her here. We have lost hope of giving her a dignified burial, a coffin, the bless-Florence, 40, a teacher.

Across Port-au-Prince, the dead litter the streets, stripped of human dignity, decomposing and covered in flies.

the quake.

miraculously survives

One woman, as though : ANI, Port-au-prince

dead. Bystanders eventually quake in Haiti's capital Port- Tuesday's devastating earthquake. Au-Prince, emerged a rare · moment of joy when a 4-year- : the presidency, was destroyed, along with several other buildold boy was pulled to safety · ings that housed ministries. three days after he was buried :

Paul Derlice was exhausted and intensely dehydrated but : miraculously unharmed. According to the Daily

News, people in the street ran ing of a priest," sobbed : to get a glimpse of Paul as he was carried down a huge pile : of rubble by the heroic Haitian . men who slaved for hours in the blazing sun to free him.

"I'm very proud. I feel like a The efforts of recently- hero. God let this boy live," the . seem almost inconsequential: one of the crew of neighbours by comparison with the scale : who rescued the boy with only : of the devastation wrought by; a pick-axe and a couple of. : hammers, as saying.

from police station AFP, Port-au-prince

Working from a police station close to the airport, the Haitian into the grave saying she felt : Amid the widespread despair : government is trying to provide some governance to the councaused by the massive earth- . try, whose main symbols of power have been torn down by

The National Palace, a big white structure that was home to

"We have decided to temporarily place the seat of the presi-

alive in his two-story family · dency and government in these police barracks to be closer to our international partners," says President Rene Preval, walking around in shirtsleeves.

> The airport, which serves as a link between Haiti and the outside world, has been taken over by hundreds of American troops who try to organise delivery of aid. The seat of government may move in a day or two, say people

from the president's entourage.

The president works in an office protected by two guards from his security detail. In another office, Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive is hold-

ing a meeting with several ministers, who can still move around the city. His original office now serves as a shelter for hundreds of families left without homes.

"The government has lost its capacity to function properly, arrived foreign aid workers : paper quoted Jean Mercilien, : but it has not collapsed," assures the president, who looks exhausted with dark pockets under the eyes.

Sitting behind a round table, President Preval is talking on the phone with his Dominican Republic counterpart, Leonel Fernandez.

Yemen confirms killing of 6 Qaeda leaders

Rebels say they downed Saudi chopper

suspects.

AFP, Sanaal Dubai

Yemen's interior ministry confirmed yesterday the death of al-Qaeda's military chief in the country, Qassem al-Rimi, and that of five of his lieutenants in an air strike a day earlier.

There were conflicting reports on Friday about who had been killed and whether any of the eight people targeted had escaped.

In a statement on its website, the ministry said Rimi had died when a missile struck his vehicle in the eastern part of Saada province. Also killed were Ayed al-Shabwani, Ammar al-Waili, Saleh al-Tais, Egyptian Ibrahim Mohammed Saleh al-Banna and an unidentified sixth person.

Late on Friday, after initially having said Waili and Tais had been killed, a senior official said they had escaped.

The ministry did not comment on the fate of the remaining two people targeted.

chief Nasser al-Wahaishi, his Saudi number two Saeed Ali alcleric Anwar al-Awlaqi.

Shehri and radical US-Yemeni On January 6, officials announced the capture of key

from a state security prison in leader Mohammed al-Hang Sanaa in February 2006 that left and two other militants the government red-faced, and believed to be behind threats he was on a list of 152 wanted against Western interests in Sanaa that caused embassies to close for several days.

Banna, also known as Abu Aymen al-Masri, was said to be an "ideologist" of the group.

Friday's operation was the latest in a series of blows since late December, when the government launched its latest campaign against al-Qaeda. On Tuesday, security forces

killed Abdullah Mehdar, said to be the group's kingpin, in Shabwa province, east of the capital. Provincial Governor Ali

Hassan al-Ahmadi said dozens of fighters, including Saudis and Egyptians who had fled Afghanistan, were hiding in Shabwa.

Among them, he said, were current al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

The helicopter was shot down on Friday during a "Saudi advance towards Jebel al-Doud," rebel spokesman Mohammed Abdul Salam told AFP by telephone. He said the rebels fired

Yemen has stepped up its

campaign against al-Qaeda

militants based in the country

since the United States accused

AQAP of training a Nigerian

youth who attempted to blow

up a US airliner on Christmas

engaged in on-off border

clashes with Saudi forces,

said on Saturday they had

downed a Saudi Apache

helicopter amid Saudi air

raids they said had killed at

least 15 villagers.

Earlier Yemeni Shia rebels,

"special machine guns" at the aircraft which was seen "on fire in the air before it crashed near Al-Khouba" on the border.

Six powers mull new Iran sanctions in NY

AFP, New York

Six major powers were meeting here yesterday to chart a response to Iran's nuclear defiance but China is sending a lower-level diplomat in a signal of its reluctance to back tougher sanctions pushed by the West.

Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States are sending top officials of their respective foreign ministries at the meeting hosted by the European Union. The six officials representing the so-called P5+1 were

scheduled to meet from noon

(1700 GMT) for a working uncheon at the EU mission in New York, but a diplomat cautioned against expecting any "spectacular" outcome. Robert Cooper, a senior security adviser representing

the EU, was to brief reporters

at the end of the closed-door

meeting around 2100 GMT. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced Monday that the six would explore "the kind and degree of sanctions that we should be pursuing" as Iran doggedly refused to comply with UN demands to halt

uranium enrichment. Diplomats said Western members of the group of the five veto-wielding permanent mem-

plus Germany were likely to present their Russian and Chinese colleagues with a range of new and tougher sanctions. The goal is to crank up the

pressure on Iran to accept a UN-

brokered deal aimed at allaying

suspicions about the nature of

its nuclear programme by shipping most of its low enriched uranium (LEU) stockpile abroad to be further enriched into reactor fuel. But Tehran has ignored a US-set December 31 deadline to back the offer, drawn up by the UN International Atomic

Energy Agency, and countered with its own proposal of a simultaneous and staged swap of LEU with reactor fuel. Measures said to be under consideration include tougher

sanctions targeting Iran's

insurance, financial and arms sectors, diplomats said. Washington favours sanctions targeting Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, seen as the economic and military backbone of the Iranian regime in a bid to minimise the impact on the Iranian people and avoid an adverse effect on the very people protesting President

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's

hardline regime.

Fishes also feel the pain! INDO ASIAN NEWS bers of the UN Security Council SERVICE, London

> It is likely that fishes also feel the pain, says a new study. Norwegian School of Veterinary Science doc-

toral student Janicke

Nordgreen has studied

nociception and pain in

teleost fish. Nociception is

physiological detection of stimuli that can cause tissue damage. Nordgreen studied the response to potentially painful stimuli. As consciousness is essential to feel pain, Nordgreen tested as well whether fish can be taught to solve a task as in

scious attention. Besides, the research may increase our understanding of the evolution of consciousness and the nociceptive system. In her project,

humans it requires con-

Nordgreen used Atlantic salmon, goldfish and rainbow trout. Her research showed that noxious galvanic stimulation elicited activity in the Atlantic salmon telecephalon.



Pakistani Islamists shout slogans beside a burning Norwegian flag during a protest in Lahore on Friday against the publication of drawings depicting Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM). The Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten published last week reproductions of controversial cartoons of the Prophet by Kurt Rimi was among 23 people Westergaard, the victim of an attempted murder last week. who had made a daring escape