

12 Dead, Dozens Trapped For 24 hours After Massive Landslide Hits China

~ By Ravneet Kaur

According to accounts from Chinese official media, a terrible landslide in Yunnan Province, China, on Monday left at least **12 people dead and over 30 more people presumed to be buried beneath the debris for more than 24 hours now**. The country was experiencing a broad cold wave at the time of the occurrence.

More than 500 individuals were quickly evacuated from the impacted region in reaction to the incident. China Central Television took aerial photos that showed a terrifying scene: a deep, black trench carved into a snow-covered slope, burying low-lying dwellings in clusters and slicing through terraced fields.

The two little villages of Hexing and Heping, which are located in the northernmost part of the province close to the borders with Sichuan and Guizhou Provinces, were the focus of the landslide, which happened just before 6:00 in the morning on Monday. Nestled in a rugged environment that was formerly thought to be among the poorest regions of China are these sparsely populated settlements.

Hundreds of personnel are sifting through snow-covered debris as part of ongoing rescue efforts to find and assist the missing residents. There are at least 18 distinct families represented among the impacted households. The difficult circumstances make the task more difficult because the landslide site's temperature is still below freezing and continuous snowfall makes the rescue effort more difficult.

It was not immediately evident what caused the landslide. Over the course of the last day, Yunnan, a hilly area vulnerable to landslides, has had snowfall and cold temperatures.

"Dozens were buried as the mountain collapsed," a man with the last name Gu told the local media after seeing the landslide.

Rescue operations in subfreezing temperatures raced against time to find casualties in about 18 homes as a cold wave engulfed the nation. Approximately 500 individuals were taken out of the impacted region during the course of the nightlong rescue efforts, which were hampered by snow, slick roads, and an unrelenting cold snap that was predicted to last for the following 3 days.

Local rescuers have stated that the difficult terrain made the rescue operations much more difficult. The unstable soil made it hard to deploy huge machinery.

According to Chinese news agency Xinhua, a preliminary assessment determined that the landslide was caused by the collapse of a steep cliff-top location.

Separately, **early on Tuesday, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.1 rocked a remote area of western China's Xinjiang province.** At least 6 people were hurt in the earthquake that struck Uchturpan County in Aksu Prefecture. The devastation caused by the earthquake was substantial, with over 120 homes falling or suffering major damage. About 200 rescuers

were sent to the epicenter of the earthquake in response, where they had to contend with bitterly cold conditions.

The simultaneous crises highlight the tenacity and commitment of rescue crews as they negotiate hazardous situations to deliver assistance and relief on several fronts.