

# Natural disasters in 2010



Let us go through what happened in 2010 to remember the many blessings of Allah Almighty; He is indeed the Forgiving of our sins.

Dear beloved, prophet Mohamed peace be upon him told us that the accelerating increase of the frequency of earthquakes is one of the signs of the day of resurrection, let us go through the following photos which present the terrible consequences of earthquakes and other different types of disasters.

## Earthquakes

### In Haiti

The 2010 Haiti earthquake was a catastrophic magnitude which was 7.0 Richter and it happened on Tuesday, 12 January 2010.

An estimated three million people were affected by the quake; the Haitian Government reported that an estimated 230,000 people had died, 300,000 had been injured and 1,000,000 made homeless. They also estimated that 250,000 residences and 30,000 commercial buildings had collapsed or were severely damaged.



**In Mexico**

Another earthquake hit Mexico on April 4, 2010. the earthquake was triggered by the same processes that drive temblors on the San Andreas Fault, which runs all the way from Southern California to north of San Francisco.



Streets became not suitable for use anymore because of the quake



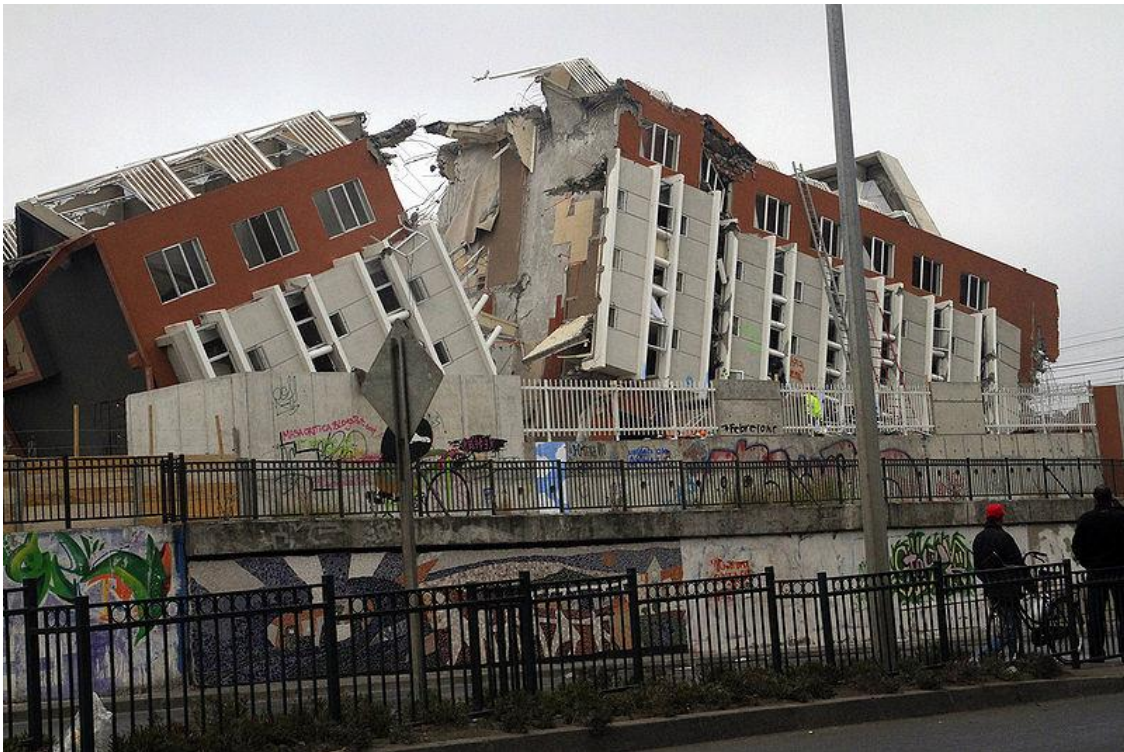
A car passes over a crack in a Mexican highway after the quake

### **In Chile**

**An 8.8 quake caused widespread damage, destroying buildings, bridges and roads in many areas. Electricity, water and phone lines were cut. Chilean President Michele Bachelet said that altogether two million people had been affected.**

**Many deaths were also in reported in the regions of Santiago, O'Higgins, Biobio, Araucania and Valparaiso.**

**It is a worth mentioning that Chile suffered the biggest earthquake of the 20th century when a 9.5 magnitude quake struck the city of Valdivia in 1960, killing 1,655 people.**



**Building destroyed in Concepción**



A boat in the middle of a street in Talca city

**In china**

A destructive earthquake hit the country, it was 7.1 Richter. The devastation was astonishing, Over 600 people have been reported dead, and hundreds were injured.



Rescue operations were working hard to save lives of buried people under the debris.

Allah Almighty throughout time alerts people who are deviating from the pure nature (Monotheism) which Allah put in every single person as He Almighty says: (So set you (O Muhammad) your face towards the religion of pure Islamic Monotheism Hanifa (worship none but Allah Alone) Allah's Fitrah (i.e. Allah's Islamic Monotheism), with which He has created mankind) {Sûrat Ar-Rûm -The Romans -verse30}.

Allah Almighty says: (Verily, We sent (Messengers) to many nations before you (O Muhammad). And we seized them with extreme poverty (or loss in wealth) and loss in health with calamities so that they might believe with humility.) {Sûrat Al-An'âm -(The Cattle) -verse42}.

Hence He Almighty sends disasters and calamities to human to rethink in their deeds to make the needed corrective actions.

But Atheists and disbelievers used to say that what you are talking about happened before and will not happen again because what we are facing today is just a matter of some natural phenomena due to known reasons by scientists and researchers, the answer came from Allah to those people by saying: (That has been the Way of Allah already with those who passed away before. And you will not find any change in the Way of Allah) {Sûrat Al-Fath -The Victory -verse23}

Below we will go through many disasters that happened in this year around earth:

## Drought

### In China

Villagers of Geyi village, about 40km from Luliang County in Yunnan province, have stopped farming for quite a while as the severest drought in a century in Southwest China shows no sign of letting up.

They could do nothing with the irrigation ponds having run out of water for the past few months.



**“We have not received water for the past two to three days,” said a villager who did not want to be identified. He added “Though we have some water stored in our house, it is just not enough to last the whole month”.**

**Yunnan, Sichuan and Guizhou provinces, Chongqing city and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region are the areas severely affected by the drought. About eight million hectares of farmland in the country, including two million hectares severely affected, have been hit by the long dry spell, the worst in decades. Official figures showed that drought-hit areas averaged 6.9 million hectares in previous years. The drought has left 26 million people and 18 million heads of livestock with shortage of drinking water, up 230% and 210%, respectively, from previous years, according to statistics from the Office of State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters.**



In the worst-hit settlements in the mountains, villagers are faced with serious drinking water shortages as relief aid providers find it hard to lug in water supply. Some farmers even have to pay for water.

### **In Thailand and Vietnam**

According to experts, drought in 2010 in Thailand is expected to be severer when compared with the previous years. Water shortages resulting from global warming is expected to seriously affect citizens, especially farmers nationwide, whose survival depends on their harvest and water supply. This year's dry season is expected to begin from 1 March until May 2010 but may last longer following late rain resulting from the El Niño phenomenon. Water supply management for the whole country is therefore crucial to ensure a sufficient amount of water throughout the upcoming drought. Thai officials said that disaster areas have been declared in 53 provinces due to water shortages brought on by a severe drought. The Interior Ministry's Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department said a total 1,755,100 households, or 6,482,602 people, have been affected by the extreme dry season.



Struggling with its worst drought in more than 100 years with practically no rainfall since September, Vietnam is facing timber fires, plagues of rice-eating insects that are destroying millions of acres of rice paddies and dried-up rivers, Time magazine reports.

For a country that historically has had to cope with flash floods and landslides during the July-to-November monsoon season, the drought is taking a lingering toll on the Vietnamese.

"Drought is a slow, silent disaster, which in the long run will have a more profound impact on peoples' livelihoods," Ian Wilderspin, senior technical adviser for disaster risk management at the U.N. Development Program in Hanoi told Time.

Rain is not expected any time soon. The Vietnam Institute of Hydro Meteorology and Environment said that the country's ongoing drought, an aftermath of El Nino, a cyclical warming pattern, is forecast to last until May.

It is important to mention that rice production in Thailand and Vietnam, the two largest exporters, may be hurt by dry weather that has parched farms and cut water levels along the Mekong River, the Food and Agriculture Organization said. The Thai harvest of second-crop rice that began in April, accounting for about 25 percent of annual output, may drop to 7 million tons from 8.4 million last year, Concepcion Calpe, a senior economist at the United Nations' agency, said Output from Vietnam's end-of-year harvest "may be affected," Calpe said.

## Storms

### In Brazil

One of the worst storms in 40 years hit RiodeJaneiro, overflowing the banks of the Lagoon, crippling public transportation and sending dozens of homes built atop an old garbage dump crashing down a hillside in a neighboring city.

Rain has become a persistent problem in the southern half of South America this year because of El Niño's warming of Atlantic waters, meteorologists said. And it seems to be getting worse. Research has



shown that rain has become more frequent and more intense in southeastern Brazil over the past 50 years, said David Easterling, chief of the scientific services division for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

"Everybody is looking to the sky," said Lucia Hipólito, a popular radio commentator here. "Every time a meteorologist says it's going to rain people are put on edge."

Glory to Allah!!!!Drought in a country and heavy rains in another one and both are caused by the same reason as researchers and scientists say" El Niño's warming phenomenon".

Allah Almighty says :( [The Originator of the heavens and the earth. When He decrees a matter, He only says to it: "Be!" - and it is.](#)){Sûrat Al-Baqarah-(The Cow) verse117}.



Carlos Eduardo Silva dos Santos, 24, peers out from under a wall where he is trapped as rescue workers try to free him.

## Floods

### In Nigeria

More than 2 million people have been displaced in northern Nigeria after flood gates on two dams were opened to release rising waters along the Niger River.

The flooding has left 97 hectares (about 240 acres) of farm land waterlogged and has caused 4.5 billion naira (\$29 million) in damages.

"We have about two million people affected," in a state which has 4.3 million people, Umar Kyari, the spokesman of Jigawa state, said.

**"Over 5,000 villages in 11 of our 27 local government areas were affected. It started more than two months ago and it's continuing as I speak," he said.**



**In Ghana**

**In June 2010, Flooding caused by heavy rains killed at least 24 people, destroying homes and washing out roads. The deluge, caused by heavy rains, has swept away vehicles and destroyed homes, displacing hundreds of people.**



**In Pakistan**

**The 2010 Pakistan floods began in July 2010 following heavy monsoon rains in many regions of Pakistan. Latest's estimates indicate that over two**

**thousand people have died and over a million homes have been destroyed since the flooding began.**

**The United Nations estimates that more than 21 million people are injured or homeless as a result of the flooding, exceeding the combined total of individuals affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the 2010 Haiti earthquake.**

**At one point, approximately one-fifth of Pakistan's total land area was underwater due to the flooding.**



**UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has asked for an initial \$460 million for emergency relief, noting that the flood was the worst disaster he had ever seen.**



**World Health Organization reported that ten million people were forced to drink unsafe water. Structural damages are estimated to exceed 4 billion USD, and wheat crop damages are estimated to be over 500 million USD. Officials estimate the total economic impact to be as much as 43 billion USD.**

### **In Poland**

**Flash floods in Poland turned more dramatic as the swollen Vistula River broke its dykes near Sandomierz, central Poland, spilling into the town of 25,000 residents and stretching as far as seven kilometers from the usual stream channel.**



Many have been stranded in their homes in villages near Sandomierz, with water five to six meters deep. They are unable to call for help as power outages have made phone communication impossible in some areas. Poland asked the EU for financial help to cope with damage caused by the floods. To be eligible for assistance from the so-called EU Solidarity Fund, the damage must exceed €2 billion.



Floods Turned Towns into Lakes

## Volcanoes

### In island

In early Sunday, 21 March 2010, Icelandic people were surprised with volcano eruption. It is happened in the area of Eyjafallajoekull glacier in Southern Iceland. The Iceland volcano eruption 2010, according to AF has forced more than 500 people to leave their homes to be evacuated into safer place.



A passenger is taking a picture of a departures board showing canceled flights at Newcastle International Airport, England

Authorities evacuated hundreds of people and all flight traffic in Europe had stopped for days and thousands of passengers stuck at airports. Observers said that the situation was like a full Paralysis in the whole continent.



The heavy smoke which erupted from the volcano stopped all air traffic in Europe.

## Wildfires

### In Russia

The Russian wildfires are a series of hundreds of wildfires that broke out across Russia, primarily in the west, starting in late July 2010, due to record temperatures (hottest summer in Russian history) and drought in the region. Officials have declared a state of emergency in seven regions for the fires, while 28 other regions were under a state of emergency due to crop

failures caused by the Russian drought. The fires have cost an estimated more than \$15 billion USD in damages.



A Russian fireman trying to stop the fire in the Russian forests



Left photo was taken on- 17 June 2010(before the fire) and the Right one was taken on- 7 August 2010(after the fire)for a street in Moscow.

All of the above disasters hit many countries all over the world and the affected countries was even Muslim or non-Muslim countries and even non religion countries.

Allah Almighty says about HisSunnah(way of dealing) which is constant across time:

(And verily, We will make them taste of the near torment (i.e. the torment in the life of this world, i.e. disasters, calamities, etc.) prior to the supreme

torment (in the Hereafter), in order that they may (repent and) return (i.e. accept Islam).){Sûrat As-Sajdah -(The Prostration)-verse21}.

Dear beloved, we have to remember the uncounted blessings of Allah as we have a home, food , drink , peace , good health, etc.....we have to look at those homeless people who were living in houses ,eating and drinking. Allah almighty says: (Allah increases the provision for whom He wills, and straitens (it for whom He wills), and they rejoice in the life of the world, whereas the life of this world as compared with the Hereafter is but a brief passing enjoyment){Sûrat Ar-Ra'd -The Thunder -verse26}.

This life worth nothing and Allah almighty by these disasters wants us to know that this life has an end and one day all of us will be in the grave and we will be in between the hands of the creator , so we have to do good deeds and follow the full instruction of this great religion as Allah says about the characteristics of those people: (And those who give that (their charity) which they give (and also do other good deeds) with their hearts full of fear (whether their alms and charities, etc., have been accepted or not), because they are sure to return to their Lord (for reckoning) . \*It is these who race for the good deeds, and they are foremost in them [e.g. offering the compulsory Salat (prayers) in their (early) stated, fixed times and so on]){Sûrat Al-Mu'minûn-(The Believers)-verse60-61}.

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