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## After the earthquake in Morocco Impressions from a country hit

A devastating earthquake has claimed many victims and caused immense damage in the North African country. Images of the natural disaster.

By Sven Lemkemeyer  
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**I**t was late Friday evening when Morocco was hit by the worst earthquake ever recorded in the country. In many cities and towns in the North African country, people ran into the streets in panic and fled from restaurants and cafes, eyewitnesses report.



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The full extent of the natural disaster could not yet be predicted on Saturday evening. At this point, more than 1,000 deaths had already been reported, at least 1,000 more people were injured, with life-threatening injuries.



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This man in Amizmiz was injured by debris.© Reuters/Abdelhak Balhaki

In the village of Moulay Brahim, near the epicenter, rescuers dug through the rubble of collapsed houses for survivors. The first graves for the dead have already been dug on a nearby hill, the AFP agency reported.

In the village of Amizmiz, resident Mohamed Azaw described his horrific experience: “When I felt the earth shaking under my feet and the house tilting, I rushed to get my children out. But my neighbors couldn’t do it anymore,” he said. “Unfortunately, no one from this family has been found alive. The father and son were found dead, the mother and daughter are still being searched for.”



People pray at a body laid out in Moulay Brahim in Al Haouz province. © AFP/Fadel Senna

The emergency services have not yet reached all affected regions of the country. While preparations for operations are in full swing in many countries that have offered help to Morocco, rescuers in the country often search for buried victims with their bare hands.



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ake caused enormous damage, like here in Amizmiz. © Reuters/Abdelhak Balhaki



Rescue workers are desperately searching for victims of the 6.8 magnitude quake in Moulay Brahim in Al Haouz province. © AFP/Fadel Senna

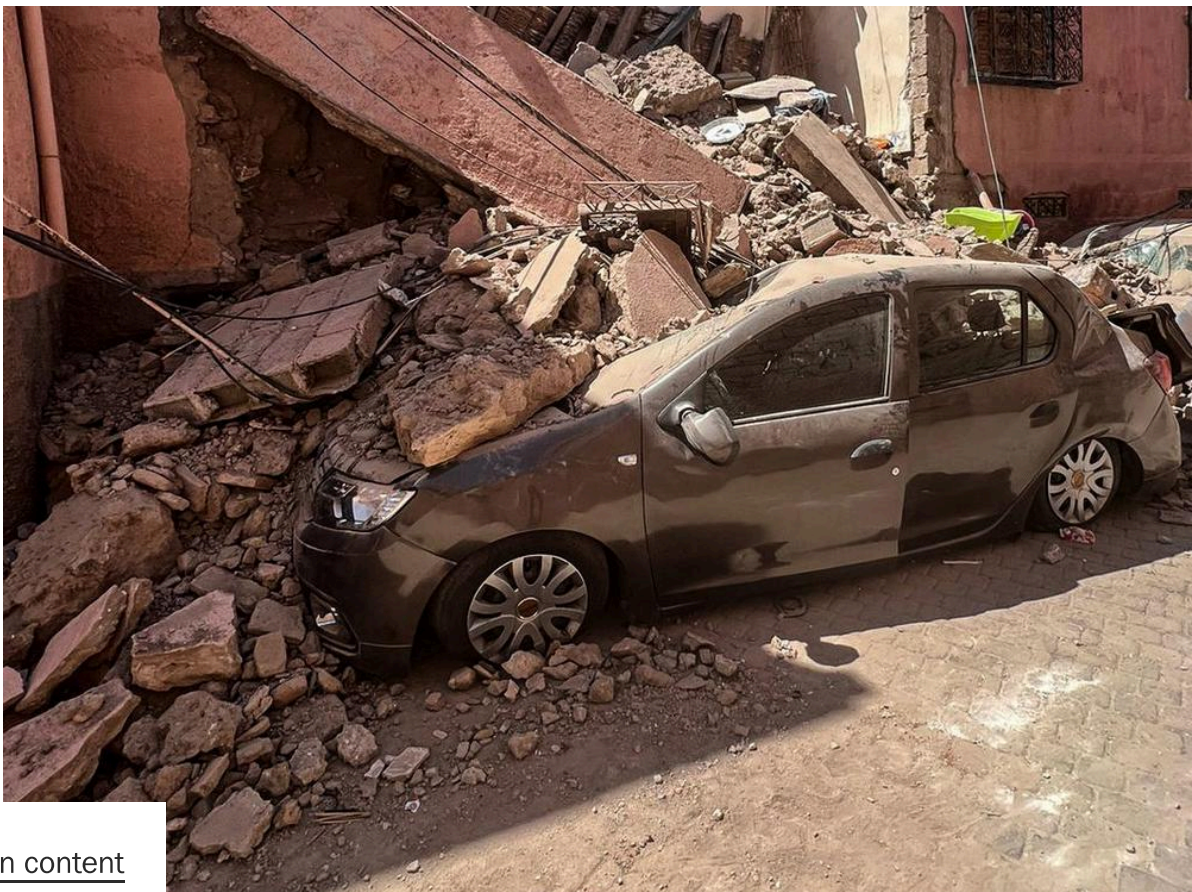
It is not yet possible to predict how extensive the damage caused by the earthquake will be. Many people not only lost relatives and friends, but also their homes and belongings.



A woman in Marrakech stands in despair in front of the rubble of her house.

© AFP/Fadel Senna

According to the US Earthquake Observatory USGS, the epicenter was in a mountainous region around 70 kilometers southwest of the tourist hotspot of Marrakech. The effects were felt as far away as the coastal cities of Rabat, Casablanca and Essaouira.



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there were rubble on the streets and numerous cars were damaged.

Part of the minaret collapsed at the mosque in the central market square of Jemaa el Fna, injuring two people.



Families sit in front of their destroyed houses in Marrakech. © dpa/Mosa'ab Elshamy

The Frenchman Michael Bizet told the AFP news agency that he was lying in bed in his house in the old town of Marrakech when the quake shook the city: “I thought my bed would fly away. I ran into the street half naked. It was total chaos, a real disaster, crazy.”



Residents flee their homes in Marrakech. © dpa/Mosa'ab Elshamy

An AFP correspondent saw hundreds of people sleeping on the ground in the world-famous Jemaa el Fna square in the historic old town because they did not dare return to their homes.



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Ouarzazate, many people stayed outside for fear of further earthquakes.

Wang Dongzhen

transfusion center in Marrakech called on the population to donate blood for the numerous injured.



People donate blood after the earthquake in Marrakech. © Reuters/Abdelhak Balhaki

Former Bundesliga professional Achraf Hakimi called for solidarity after the devastating earthquake in his home country of Morocco and expressed his condolences to the victims.

“We are experiencing a difficult moment for our compatriots. It's time to help each other to save as many lives as possible,” the 24-year-old Moroccan international wrote on Instagram on Saturday.