



Mission report Sumatra, Indonesia – 02.10.2009 to 07.10.2009

As today (Wednesday, 7.10.2009) at half past three in the morning the doors opened and the rescue dog teams of the „International Rescue Dog Organisation“ as well as members of rescue teams from Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and Austria came into the hall of the Budapest airport, friends, spectators, other passengers and of course the greeting-committee applauded strongly.

After a long flight from Sumatra the IRO-Team-Leader Marko Brucan from Slovenia could tell the chairman of the INSARAG for Europe, Africa and the Middle East (UN-OCCHA, Disaster management organisation), Mr. Attila Tatár: “All dogs, dog handlers as well as the members of the rescue teams returned healthy!”

Dr. Zörner noted at the arrival of the chartered airplane of the “International Rescue Dog Organisation” 5 days ago, that 19 rescue dog handlers with their search dogs as well as three group leaders were flown from Frankfurt via Budapest to Sumatra. Another 12 persons and 2 dogs from the USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) from Hungary were on board, as well as 18 teams from RESCUE 24 from Hungary. ISAR Germany was flying with 24 persons and 4 dogs. Additionally 2 UNDAC-members (UN-mission leaders) from Sweden and the Netherlands, 12 tons rescue equipment and 4 tons medical supplies of the German Johanniter were on board.

Unfortunately survivors could not be found under the rubble. Because – and everyone agreed on that – “There were houses, which were spared by the earthquake completely, others were slightly damaged. And in between them was simply only rubble, without openings, in which survivors could have been found.

IRO-rescue dog handler Peter Schüler from Vienna: “At some places the building structure was completely intact and there was almost normal life on the streets. And then around the next corner everything was like wiped out.”

The search teams suffered under the enormous heat. At up to 36 degrees Celsius there were also severe monsoon showers, which made some roads impassable.

Peter Schüler: “We should not only search in the region Pariaman north of Padang for buried persons, but also in the city. The severe monsoon rain has prevented us from getting there though, since the roads were impassable”.

Also Magdalena Koczera from Vienna was reporting from the heat and the extreme humidity. At this weather the long drives on an open truck were a pain – especially for the dogs.

But, so Hermann Kranz from Niederösterreich: “We know that we have good dogs and they worked under these extreme conditions exceptionally well. The dogs had a stoic composure.”

A moving story was telling an IRO-helper from Slovenia: „The people were emotional, that so many were coming to the disaster area to help. The helpers were provided with food – what was there was shared. A local woman said: “It is so nice! The whole world comes and helps!”



