

Three-month state of emergency declared in Turkey

9th February 2023



Turkey's President Erdogan has declared a three-month state of emergency across areas hit by Monday's deadly earthquakes. Two extremely powerful quakes hit Turkey just nine hours apart. The first quake was a magnitude 7.5; the second registered

7.8 on the Richter scale. They are among the biggest earthquakes ever to hit Turkey. They caused huge loss of life and damage in southeast Turkey and in neighbouring Syria. President Erdogan warned of the danger of a "large number of aftershocks". He said: "Our teams are working to reach the disaster areas....We are rapidly continuing the search and rescue operations...despite the difficulty of the conditions and the terrible weather."

The international community has promised support for Turkey and Syria. The EU has sent more than 1,150 rescue workers. Emergency medical teams will provide "essential health care for the injured and most vulnerable people affected by the earthquakes". Mexico has sent a team of dogs and rescuers who are experts in locating survivors in the rubble. U.S. President Joe Biden said he was "deeply saddened by the loss of life and devastation caused by the earthquakes". He promised to give "any help that is needed". Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz said: "We mourn with the victims and fear for those buried." Syria will also receive a lot of help. It has already suffered for years from war.

Sources: [cnbc](#) / [thehill.com](#) / [nytimes.com](#)

Writing

All governments should send billions of dollars to Turkey and Syria. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

emergency / earthquakes / magnitude / Turkey / Syria / danger / aftershocks / life / international community / support / rescue / injured / survivors / mourn / war / help

True / False

- 1) The vice-president of Turkey declared a state of emergency. T / F
- 2) One big earthquake happened about nine hours after another in Turkey. T / F
- 3) One of the earthquakes was the biggest in Turkey's history. T / F
- 4) Turkey's president warned of the danger of many aftershocks. T / F
- 5) The EU has sent over 1,150 rescue workers to Turkey and Syria. T / F
- 6) Mexico has sent a team of dogs to help find survivors. T / F
- 7) U.S. President Joe Biden promised to provide any necessary help. T / F
- 8) The article says Syria would receive insufficient help. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. declared | a. ruins |
| 2. deadly | b. enormous |
| 3. hit | c. aid |
| 4. huge | d. lethal |
| 5. terrible | e. vowed |
| 6. promised | f. damage |
| 7. provide | g. announced |
| 8. rubble | h. give |
| 9. devastation | i. strike |
| 10. help | j. really bad |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What should the international community do?
- c) What do people need immediately after an earthquake hits?
- d) How much money should world governments send Turkey and Syria?
- e) How scary do you think earthquakes are?
- f) Should we all keep an emergency bag for natural disasters?
- g) What would you send to the people of Turkey and Syria?
- h) What questions would you like to ask an earthquake survivor?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. powerful quakes hit Turkey just | a. teams |
| 2. the second registered 7.8 | b. number of aftershocks |
| 3. the danger of a large | c. weather |
| 4. continuing the search and | d. by the loss of life |
| 5. terrible | e. on the Richter scale |
| 6. The international community has | f. rescue operations |
| 7. Emergency medical | g. survivors in the rubble |
| 8. rescuers who are experts in locating | h. victims |
| 9. deeply saddened | i. nine hours apart |
| 10. We mourn with the | j. promised support |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the two earthquakes?
- What causes earthquakes?
- What experiences do you have of earthquakes?
- How can you help people in Turkey and Syria?
- What can people in earthquake areas do to be safer?
- What should people do when an earthquake hits?
- Would you like to join a rescue team?
- What advice do you have for the survivors and rescue workers?

Spelling

- Two xremetely powerful quakes
- The first quake was a gmtinuade 7.5
- the second gitsreeerd 7.8
- on the Richter acsle
- search and urcsee operations
- the erribtle weather
- the international iuontymmc
- provide eliseastn health care
- eaulelvrbn people affected by the earthquakes
- locating ivvrsrosu in the rubble
- fear for those buride
- sdfeurfe for years from war

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. e	7. h	8. a	9. f	10. c

How to help Turkey and Syria

What can the people and things in the table do to help Turkey and Syria? How helpful would this be? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

You

Your country

Charities

People online

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.