

《云南6.5级地震 2500余名官兵赶赴救援》

China has deployed 2,500 soldiers to the south-western province of Yunnan to help search for survivors after an earthquake killed at least 398 people.

????????????????????398????????2500????????

More than 1,800 people were injured when the magnitude 6.1 earthquake struck on Sunday.

??????6.1??????1800????

Attempts to reach the epicentre have been hampered by heavy rain, with some rescuers forced to travel on foot.

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State broadcaster CCTV said the earthquake was the strongest to hit the mountainous province in 14 years.

??????CCTV??????????14????????

President Xi Jinping called for "all-out efforts" to find survivors as he dispatched soldiers to the area.

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They joined more than 300 police and firefighters from Zhaotong and about 400 emergency workers and sniffer dogs from across Yunnan province in the rescue operation.

????????300????????????400????

But rescuers trying to deliver the much-needed supplies are struggling to reach the area, reports the BBC's Celia Hatton in Beijing.

??BBC??????

Unrelenting rain and continuing landslides have left many roads in the region too damaged to use, she adds.

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Premier Li Keqiang has travelled to the area to oversee the rescue operation. And he had to walk for "over three miles" (5km) to reach the worst-hit village in Yunnan on Monday.

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A spokesman for UN chief Ban Ki-moon said the secretary-general was "saddened by the loss of life".

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South-west China lies in an area that is prone to earthquakes.

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An earthquake in Sichuan in 2008 killed tens of thousands of people while a magnitude 7.7 quake in Yunnan in 1970 killed at least 15,000.

2008????????????1970???7.7????????1.5???

