

Tsunami death toll likely to pass 500

By Indonesia correspondent [Matt Brown](#)

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The death toll from the tsunami off west Sumatra is expected to climb to more than 500, while Indonesians in central Java are still on alert as Mount Merapi smoulders.

Officials in the Mentawai Islands are still finding more victims of the tsunami that struck on Monday night.

Aerial surveys have revealed many more corpses and hundreds of people are still missing.

Recriminations are flying because there was no functioning tsunami warning system in the remote villages hardest hit by the wave.

Meanwhile, hot gas and ash has spewed from the mouth of Mount Merapi, Indonesia's most active volcano, underlining concerns that another, more powerful eruption could be in store.

More than 30 have already been killed by the volcano.

More than 50,000 people are now living in temporary shelters, waiting for the all clear to return.

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Slideshow: Photo 1 of 4



Members of an Indonesian army and rescue team carry the bodies of tsunami victims. (Reuters)

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