

Second Massive Quake Rocks Southeast Asia

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An estimated 8.4 Richter Scale sub-sea earthquake struck within miles of the devastating December shaker that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. *{lex}*

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In what must have seemed a terrifying deja vu, today's rumbler sparked [mass evacuations](#) from seaside areas throughout the Indian Ocean basin. The quake, measuring near December's deadly 8.9 Richter Scale, was measured as 8.4. Though scientists say the tsunami threat has passed, more than three hundred deaths have already been recorded.

The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) was quick to respond today, and said they had feared the shallow sea-bed earthquake provided just the conditions for a second tsunami disaster. Quick too to respond were bloggers around the world who, [Slate.com reports](#) are keeping abreast of developments.

Typically, the [U.S. State Department responded](#) to the disaster, saying they were in "battle mode" and watching developments closely.