



[Home](#) > AirAsia Indonesia Flight QZ8501

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SURABAYA, 5TH FEBRUARY 2015 – AirAsia Indonesia wishes to update on the search and evacuation operations of QZ 8501 led by the National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) Republic of Indonesia.

SAR operations in the primary search area continued with SAR vessels mobilized in Karimata Strait and Java Sea to observe the sea floor using side-scan sonar equipment and Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). However, SAR operations were hampered by rough sea conditions and no additional recoveries in Karimata Strait and Java Sea were reported today.

SAR vessels, inflatable boats, and local fishermen were deployed to observe the sea in the vicinity of Mamuju and Majene, West Sulawesi, stretching to Pinrang and Selayar Island, South Sulawesi. Earlier today, local fishermen located additional objects in Majene, suspected to be the plane debris. No additional remains recoveries were reported from Makassar Strait today.

Meanwhile in Surabaya, as the search enters its 40th day, the next-of-kin of QZ 8501 passengers and crew gathered at Mahameru hall in East Java Police Headquarter to commemorate and pray for their loved ones. AirAsia Indonesia management attended the memorial prayer along with the next-of-kin.

The Disaster Victim Identification Police Department Republic of Indonesia (DVI POLRI) announced that there was no identification release today. DVI POLRI is currently gathering additional DNA evidence of the passengers who are still being identified at Bhayangkara Hospital, Surabaya.

In addition, DVI POLRI today received a total of 15 additional remains; 2 remains that were recovered in Pinrang, South Sulawesi yesterday (04/02), and the remaining 13 that were recovered in Karimata Strait and Java Sea since Sunday (01/02).

To date, 67 passengers out of the 92 remains have been identified, while the remaining 25 remains are still being identified at Bhayangkara Hospital, Surabaya.

AirAsia Indonesia would like to take this opportunity to urge the public seeking progress on the search and evacuation and identification process of QZ 8501 passengers to refer solely to official information from BASARNAS and DVI POLRI.

You may also obtain substantiated information only from authorised AirAsia social media accounts: Facebook (www.facebook.com/AirAsia) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/AirAsia)

Our thoughts and prayers remain with the families and friends of our passengers and colleagues on board QZ 8501.

Note to Editors: We ask that members of the news media do not call the AirAsia Emergency Call Centre, as this line is reserved for family members seeking information about those who may have been on board.

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