



[Home](#) > AirAsia Indonesia Flight QZ8501

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SURABAYA, 20TH JANUARY 2015 – The search and evacuation mission of QZ 8501 led by the National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) Republic of Indonesia continued today despite the rain in the focus search area.

SAR vessels were on standby around the focus search area where the aircraft fuselage was found. SAR divers have been deployed to examine the site where more passengers are suspected to be trapped under the wreckage.

In addition, the SAR team also received additional equipment such as 12 additional lifting bags that will be utilized to support the mission to float the aircraft fuselage wreckage. However, the exact timing for the floating mission will depend on weather conditions. No additional passenger recoveries were reported today.

Meanwhile in Surabaya, the Disaster Victim Identification Police Department Republic of Indonesia (DVI POLRI) announced that one passenger has been identified as : Andreas Widjaja (male).

To date, BASARNAS has confirmed to have recovered a total of 53 remains of which 46 remains have been identified by DVI POLRI, 7 remains are still being identified.

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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