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SURABAYA, 22ND JANUARY 2015 – The search and rescue operation of QZ 8501 passengers continued around the primary search area. However, tough sea conditions remains to be the main challenge for the SAR team.

Earlier today, the SAR team confirmed to have recovered six additional passengers from the aircraft fuselage wreckage on the Java Sea floor. The six passengers' remains have arrived in Pangkalan Bun, Central Borneo and will be flown to Surabaya (Bhayangkara Hospital) for identification purposes. The SAR operations will continue to observe the fuselage wreckage, where it is suspected that more passengers will be found.

The Disaster Victim Identification Police Department Republic of Indonesia (DVI POLRI) announced that there is no identification release today. DVI POLRI team is currently gathering additional ante-mortem data toward the remaining passengers that are being identified at Bhayangkara Hospital.

To date, BASARNAS has confirmed to have recovered a total of 59 remains of which 47 remains have been identified by DVI POLRI, 6 remains are still being identified and 6 remains have yet to arrive 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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