



Wenchuan Earthquake

Unites Hearts in China



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A requiem evoking tears...

**Dedicated to those once vibrant lives
and to the daring rescuers of lives**



**This book
records moving and inspiring moments
of the May 12th earthquake
and expresses our deep grief and our
persevering strength.**

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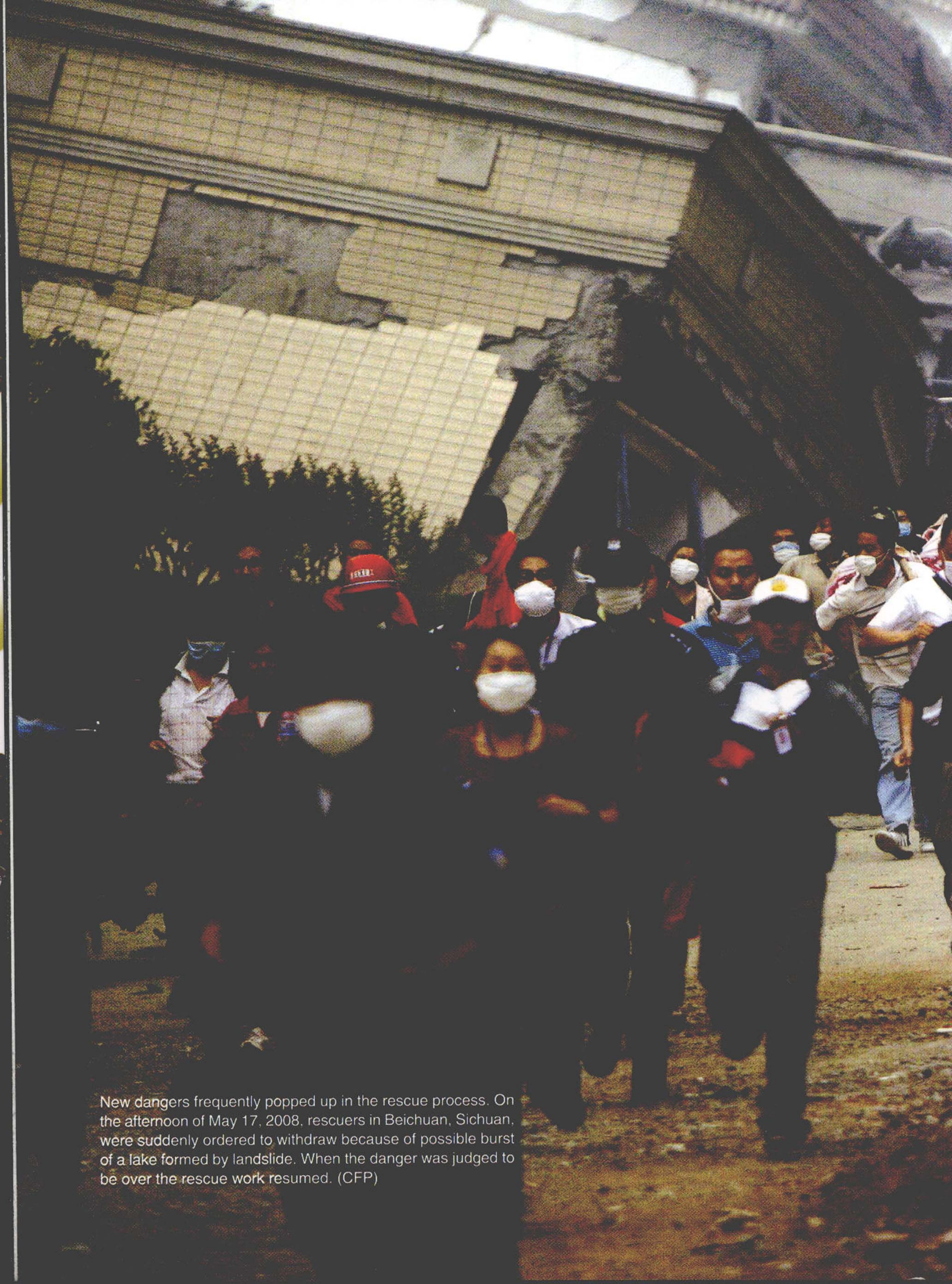
Standing among ruined houses, the clock in Hanwang Square, Hanwang Town, Deyang City, Sichuan Province, stopped at 14:28, the time of the earthquake. (Photo by Wang Jianhua, Xinhua News Agency)

Sudden Disaster on May 12th

That moment at 14:28 on May 12, 2008 brought untold shock and grief to the entire Chinese nation. An earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale severely jolted Wenchuan County in southwest China's Sichuan Province, and the tremors were felt in many other parts of the country. Repeated aftershocks further traumatized already devastated areas.

The earthquake left innumerable scenes that seared the eye and jolted heart. Prosperous towns and villages were transformed into ruins in a mere instant, countless lives buried beneath, so many struggling and crying for survival.

◀ On May 15, 2008, rescuers searched for survivors in the ruins in Beichuan, Sichuan. (China Foto Press, CFP)



New dangers frequently popped up in the rescue process. On the afternoon of May 17, 2008, rescuers in Beichuan, Sichuan, were suddenly ordered to withdraw because of possible burst of a lake formed by landslide. When the danger was judged to be over the rescue work resumed. (CFP)







Chinese soldiers carried out rescue and relief work on an unprecedented scale after the earthquake. The photo shows a military helicopter arriving at the epicenter immediately after the quake. (Photo by Yuan Yi, *Beijing Youth Daily*)

Wenchuan

Wenchuan County, with an area of 4,084 sq km and a population of 106,119, according to 2005 statistics, is located at the northwest edge of the Sichuan Basin and in the southeastern part of the Aba Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture.



An overview of Wenchuan before the May 12 earthquake. The beautiful scene no longer exists. (CFP)





On May 17, 2008, rescue work started at a freight transport station in Shifang, Sichuan. The twisted rails and wrecked carriages are evidence of the ferocity of the disaster. (CFP)



The Wenchuan earthquake reduced Yingxiu Township to rubble. Many people were buried and many families were separated in an instant. (Photo by Chen Kai, Xinhua News Agency)





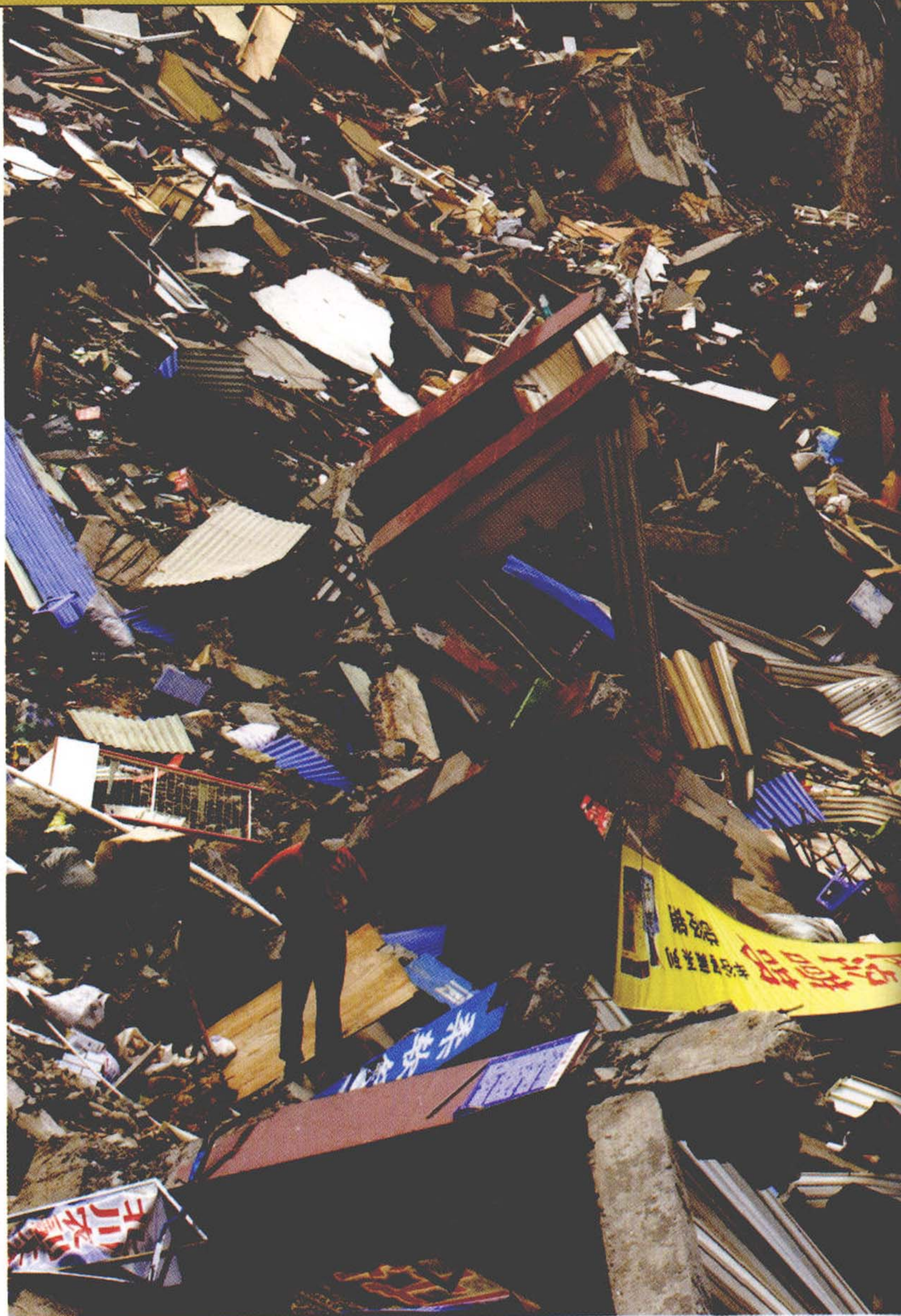
Soldiers braving the storm to rescue an injured victim. The Chinese people are united in face of the adversity. (CFP)

Powerful Earthquake Hits China

The tremors of the Wenchuan earthquake, measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale, were felt everywhere across the mainland of China, except for the provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin and Xinjiang.

Shifang, the nearest city to Wenchuan, was most seriously damaged and reduced to rubble. Beichuan, Qingchuan, Mianzhu, Maoxian counties and the city of Dujiangyan in Sichuan Province also suffered tremendous losses.

Wenchuan was stricken by a shallow-focus earthquake, which is devastating and extends to a wide area. Moreover, the mountainous terrain and severely damaged roads in the quake-hit areas exacerbated already substantial rescue difficulties.



On May 16, 2008, a survivor stood amid the ruins of his house in Beichuan, Sichuan. (CFP)

