

# Typhoon Yolanda

Appeal for Urgent Help



Iloilo Province, Philippines



**“So many dead bodies, some we cannot anymore identify. Without funeral homes to process them, we had to make a mass grave.”**

**— Cataline delos Reyes,  
Estancia, Welfare and Development  
Officer**



**“Its just me and my baby,  
I havent seen my hus-  
band for days.”**

**—Unknown Mother**



**“It was like a Tsunami”**

**— NBC News**



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**How it Happened**



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City in ruins: townsfolk seeking food & water in what is left of their hometown.



How it happened...

# Typhoon Yolanda/

**F**or Retzel Amour Villaruz, a resident of Barotac Viejo, Iloilo, typhoons are part of the realities of living. But on the hour that it struck, she knew that Yolanda will bring hell.

## The Killer Storm

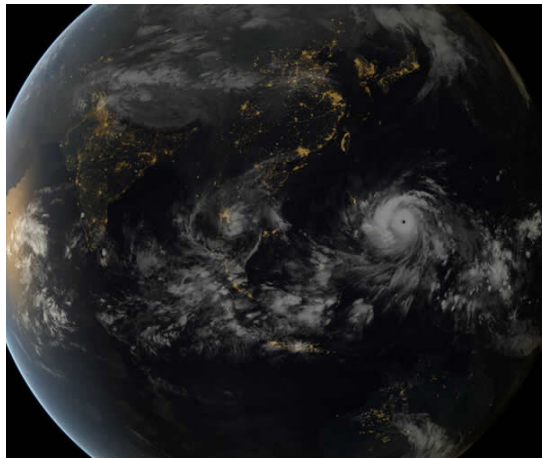
Yolanda/Haiyan made landfall at 6PM on the islands of Leyte and Samar. The Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Micronesia identified the developing storm as early as November 3. By November 7, the category 5 super typhoon was

on its path carrying sustained winds of 315 km/h (195 mph) and gusts up to 378 km/h (235 mph) & a barometric pressure of 895 mbar. First hit was Guiuan, Eastern Samar at peak intensity. With most of the structures in these islands constructed of wood, bamboo and cement, Guiuan did not stand a chance. The typhoon made four additional landfalls as it traversed Central Visayas - Daanbantayan (Cebu), Bantayan Island (Cebu), Concepcion (Iloilo), and Busuanga Island (Palawan). The

storm surge, flash floods and extreme wind speeds according to Villaruz is what brought the major cause of damage and loss of life. "It was like being in a washing machine where trees, houses and debris keep on hurtling around you. You do your best to find shelter, to hold on to each other. But for many, that is not enough." The storm beat down the islands for almost a day and at the end of it, Guiuan had 79 dead bodies floating in the floodwaters, and 500 plus listed injuries with thousands missing. Being coastal, it is purported that the missing were washed out to sea.

## Iloilo's Plight

As Yolanda made landfall in Concepcion, Iloilo - the towns beside it: Estancia, Barotac Viejo, Balasan experienced the highest waves (15 m) recorded, leading to storm surges, landslides & flashfloods. Concepcion itself was flattened with much of Northern Iloilo devastated.



Hurricane Yolanda seen from the outer atmosphere.

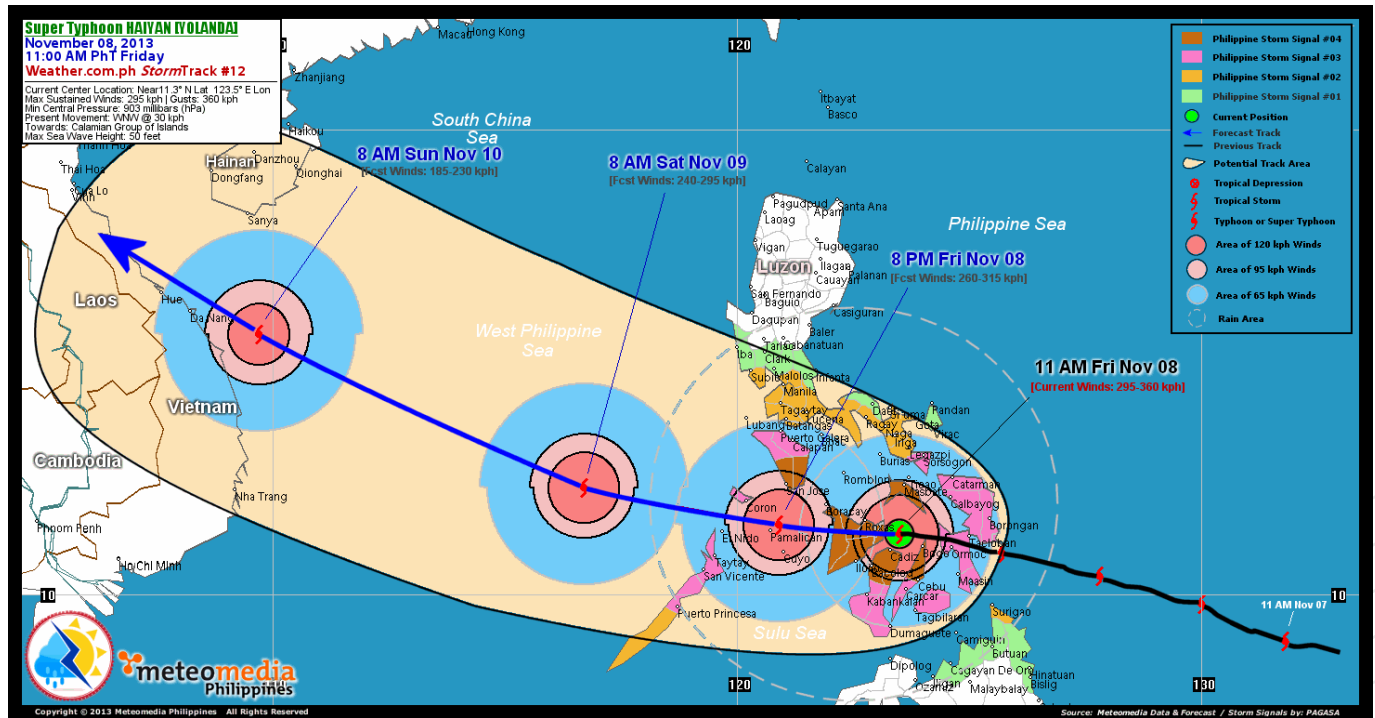


Diagram showing the path of Yolanda through the Philippines and on to Vietnam. Iloilo lies in Storm signal #4, directly in the path of this super hurricane.



“It was like being in a washing machine where trees, houses and debris keep on hurtling around you. You do your best to find shelter, to hold on to each other. But that was not enough.”

— Retzel Amour Villaruz

Displaced families seeking shelter during the super typhoon after their homes were destroyed



Typhoon Yolanda makes landfall in Tacolban, Eastern Philippines



Water, Food & Shelter

# Immediate Relief/

Iloilo, a province in Western Visayas is home to verdant jungles, lush rice fields and a coastline blessing its fisherfolk time and again. Its humble people, the Ilonggos, are a resilient bunch, recovering, albeit slow, from annual typhoons and occasional earthquakes. The November 8 devastation brought on by Typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan however has brought the North of the province to its knees affecting almost a million people with no end in sight.



▲ “Help Wanted” “Yolanda” “Help Government” A plea for help written on the rubble of what remains of a family home.

## A Desperate Situation

Central Visayas, the group of islands making up the middle of the Philippine archipelago faced the brunt of Typhoon Yolanda (international name Haiyan), the strongest storm in recorded human history. It tore through the islands of Leyte, Samar, Cebu, Panay, Negros and Palawan, with its winds of 235km/h (147mph), with gusts of 275 km/h (170 mph) and waves as high as 15m (45ft). Entire cities, towns & villages, especially in hard-hit Leyte, Cebu and Iloilo were levelled. Still reeling from the 7.2 earthquake that hit the region in October 18, the storm surge, landslides and flashfloods left these islands without power and inaccessible to relief and aid workers. As the dead piled up, the living continue to desperately search for their missing relatives, hungry, homeless, thirsty and most without hope as of this writing (November 15, 2013).

## A Plea for Iloilo

Humanitarian aid is being sought for Northern Iloilo, for immediate relief of survivors and for their recovery.



▲ Families seeking shelter and waiting for the first signs of help to arrive.



▲ Survivors: a father clutches his two remaining children, thankful that they survived but in desperate need of food, shelter and water.

## 1 Water

Many displaced families find themselves drinking dirty standing water collected from contaminated wells & rivers which has led to cases of cholera, diarrhea and vomiting. Clean drinking water is in short supply and is in great need.

## 2 Food

Local food supplies have been destroyed, consumed or looted, The slow introduction of relief efforts getting to the people who need it lead to hunger and in some cases, starvation. Many families count themselves lucky to share a single pot of stale rice.

## 3 Shelter

As pictured here, families are erecting makeshift shelters from the rubble of their former homes as immediate shelter from the heavy rains & spells of extreme heat. The Philippines still finds itself in the middle of the hurricane season.

Building a Future....

# Long Term Plans Aid Infrastructure/

**T**he people who lost the most began with almost nothing before the storm, and many, even while they lived count themselves unlucky to face an uncertain future, where to get their immediate needs (food, water, shelter) and how to go on (loss of livelihood, loss of communities, psychological trauma). It is essential that the survivors be assisted in finding shelter and accessing medical and psychological help. While aid organizations abound in the most hard hit areas of Leyte and Samar, relief to the survivors of Northern Iloilo is very much wanting. We hope to instigate sustainable long-term plans to help them recover.



▲ Father & Son attempt to build a temporary home, despite the chaos around them.



## Hope in Desperate Times

With the help of the kind people of Paderborn, Retzel Amour Villaruz, mother, wife, law student, typhoon survivor and resident of Barotac Viejo, Iloilo hopes to spearhead a relief and recovery program beginning with the displaced in her devastated hometown. With the assistance of her sister Rochelle Jones, a resident of Paderborn, Germany as well as the Lions Club, Inc. of Iloilo University and of Iloilo-College of Law & In Solidum Frasority, it is her hope that the residents of Barotac Viejo will find not just help, but hope.



▲ Retzel Amour Villaruz & her baby daughter Xamuella

## Sustainable Recovery

If urgent needs will be met (see attached Oplan Yolanda), the next step is the instigation of social cooperative systems to provide micro livelihoods in agriculture and fishing. Survivor communities will be organized through community outreach programs and the assistance of direct action groups from specialized branches of the local agriculture institution (Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State University). They will be trained at new skills and adaptable technologies, taught key economic skills in a sustainable permanent cooperation.

## Disaster Training & Education

To mitigate future risks, survivors will be taught important survival skills, first aid skills and community organization strategies based on community psychology principles. Regular outreach programs to help survivors strengthen their homes and cope with disasters will also be conducted at the onset of predictable disasters and the storm season.



▲ Philippine flag flying within the rubble of what used to be a family home.

# Want to help?

**Don't hesitate! the sooner we get help to the people who need it, the more lives we can save!**

**Email us at [paderbornyolandahilfe@gmail.com](mailto:paderbornyolandahilfe@gmail.com) for details on how YOU can help.**

Prepared by Rochelle & James Jones, November 2013

In Co-operation with Paderborn am Sonntag and the City of Paderborn