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PRESS RELEASE

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SOS MALTA – EMERGENCY APPEAL HAITI EARTHQUAKE

13/01/2010 A 7.0-magnitude earthquake, which hit south of the Haitian capital yesterday evening, is feared to have killed thousands of people across the country. An untold number of people are trapped in tons of rubble with many others having lost their homes.

The earthquake, which struck about 15km south-west of Port-au-Prince, was quickly followed by two strong aftershocks of 5.9 and 5.5 magnitude and is the strongest earthquake to have struck Haiti in more than two hundred years. The extent of the destruction is unclear but there are fears of catastrophic damage and widespread casualties. The capital is now said to be in total darkness with many people sleeping outside amid fear of more aftershocks.

Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, is plagued by hunger and political instability and this disaster will drastically increase their needs.

SOS Malta therefore calls on the Maltese public during this emergency to get immediate help to the people affected. Donations to SOS Malta's Appeal will help restore hope and provide critical aid.

Please give what you can today.

APS a/c 20000245111
HSBC a/c 006070932050
BOV a/c 40013974950

Donations can also be sent to - SOS Malta, 9, Camilleri Court in Testaferrata Street, Ta' Xbiex XBX 1407 or be made online www.sosmalta.org/donate_now.

/END.



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NOTES TO EDITORS

About SOS Malta

SOS Malta, a Maltese-registered NGO set up in 1991, aims at aiding people experiencing times of crisis and empowering them by providing support services and opportunities to implement development and change in their country to ensure a better quality of life. It encourages advocacy on behalf of social causes, as well as promotes models of good care and practice. In all its operations in Malta and overseas, SOS Malta also promotes volunteerism for effective sustainable development. The organisation is a source of knowledge and advice about the role and contribution of volunteerism and the benefits of civic engagement.