# Devastating landslide in Papua New Guinea claims over 2,000 lives as rescue efforts face challenges



On May 24, 2024, a devastating landslide struck Yambali village in Enga province, Papua New Guinea, burying more than 2,000 people. Initial estimates from the United Nations suggested around 670 fatalities, but recent reports from the Papua New Guinea government indicate the death toll could be significantly higher.

King Charles, currently undergoing treatment for cancer, issued a statement expressing his profound shock and sadness. He extended condolences to the affected families and highlighted the resilience of the Papua New Guinea communities.

The complex situation on the ground, including the village's remote location and lack of telecommunications, presents significant challenges for rescue and relief efforts. Tribal warfare and difficult terrain necessitate military escorts for international aid workers.

Efforts to recover bodies are ongoing, with locals using shovels and farming tools. The government has requested international assistance, and relief equipment is being transported to the disaster site. Accurate casualty figures remain uncertain due to the lack of reliable census data and the ongoing instability of the debris. The landslide has also buried a substantial stretch of the main highway, complicating relief operations further.