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- 1. Describe the current location of Adam Air Flight KI-574**
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Sunday, Jan 14 2007

Your World

Debris found in search for missing Indonesian plane

Adek Berry
AFP
January 11, 2007

MAMUJU, Indonesia -- **A fisherman found part of the tail of a missing Indonesian airliner while other debris washed ashore in the first big breakthrough in the search since it vanished 10 days ago, officials said Thursday.**

However, investigators said that they still did not know why the plane went down with 102 passengers and crew on board.

For anguished relatives, the news came as a relief after the frustration of waiting for news of loved ones since the jet disappeared off radar screens January 1.

Air Marshal Eddy Suyanto, who has led the search, said that part of the plane's right tailfin had been found by a fisherman 300 meters (yards) off the western coast of



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Sulawesi island.

He said that a partial serial number matched numbers for the Adam Air jet.

"The finding is part of the Adam Air airplane. It is the right horizontal tail stabilizer," he told journalists in Makassar, Sulawesi's main city.

The Boeing 737 had 96 passengers, including three Americans, and six crew when it went missing halfway through its flight from Surabaya on Indonesia's central Java island to Manado on Sulawesi.

The tailfin debris was caught in a fisherman's net eight kilometers (five miles) south of the major port of Pare-Pare.

"Up until now, it cannot yet be ascertained whether the Adam Air airplane had crashed at sea or on land and therefore the search will continue from the air, in the sea, and on land, but the focus would be at sea," Suyanto said.

He said that the hunt would be more detailed and extend as far south as Selayar island, 150 kilometers southeast of Makassar.

The piece of debris, shown to journalists, was about one meter (three feet) long, 50 centimeters wide and white with part of a number on it.

"I am happy but at the same time sad," said Hilda, one of dozens of family members who have been waiting at Makassar.

"I am happy with this breakthrough," Rosmala Dewi, the mother of stewardess Dina, told EIShinta radio.

Search efforts had been focused in recent days on the waters off Sulawesi, with a US Navy ship equipped with sonar scanning the ocean floor more than 100 kilometers northwest of where the tailfin was spotted, after reports of large metal objects around 1,000 meters down.

Parts of airline seats have washed up on a beach south of where the tailfin was found. One was the back of a seat with safety instructions written on.

Folding tables and a foam seat were also found among the usual beach debris at Mallusetasi, 20 kilometers south of Pare-Pare.

Pare-Pare police chief Genot Haryanto told EIShinta that police combing the coast in Mallusetasi had found something that appeared to be an aircraft tire and a small monitor screen.

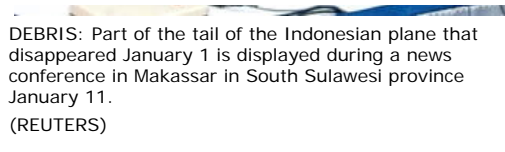
Fishermen also found a woman's body, but Suyanto said that tests had confirmed that she was not off the plane.

Suyanto said that officials were also awaiting the findings from two Indonesian ships and a US ocean survey ship, which had all detected metal objects in the waters off Mamuju, some 200 kilometers north of Pare-Pare.

All three were now on their way toward Pare-Pare to join the search there, an official said.

While the tailfin debris is a significant find, it is just a tiny fragment of the missing Boeing 737-400, which is 36.5 meters (119 feet six inches) long with a wingspan of nearly 29 meters.

DEBRIS: Part of the tail of the Indonesian plane that disappeared January 1 is displayed during a news conference in Makassar in South Sulawesi province January 11.
(REUTERS)



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National Committee for Transport Safety chief Setyo Raharjo said that questions remained about what happened to the aircraft.

"We need to study it thoroughly to determine what had happened," Raharjo said, saying that the debris could have separated from the body of the plane by an explosion, the impact of a crash on water, or as it was being dragged by currents.

The search for the plane has been hampered by bad weather and problems in scouring such a huge area of rugged terrain and open sea, and was marred by an embarrassing mix-up when officials wrongly reported wreckage had been found a day after it went missing.



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