



## **EARTHQUAKE EXPERTS JOIN RECONNAISSANCE TEAM IN ALGIERS FOR POST- EARTHQUAKE INVESTIGATION**

**For Immediate Release**

**The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute  
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**Oakland, CA, May 30, 2003** - A team of American and Algerian-American earthquake professionals, including research and practicing structural engineers, an architect, a bridge engineer and a geologist, have assembled in Algeria this week to volunteer their time and expertise in that quake-stricken country. Working under the auspices of EERI's National Science Foundation-funded, Learning From Earthquakes program, the team will investigate widespread impacts of Algeria's May 18<sup>th</sup>, 6.8 magnitude earthquake. Their work will help shape policies and building practices that mitigate destruction from future, similar earthquakes in the U.S. and around the world – a central mission of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI), the Oakland-based non-profit organization that administers this 31 year-old research program.

Team members' reconnaissance work covers many issues, including the performance of structures and lifelines, emergency response and public policy. Initial findings – photographs and brief findings -- will be posted on the EERI website ([www.eeri.org](http://www.eeri.org)) over the next several days with complete results to be published later in the EERI Newsletter. EERI teams have studied the impacts of devastating earthquakes in over 30 countries during the past 31 years.

### **EERI Algerian Reconnaissance Team Members are:**

- Team Leader Fouad Bendimerad is Vice President of Risk Management Solutions, RMS, in Newark, CA.
- Omar Khemici, a structural engineer with ABS Consulting in Oakland, California.
- Allaoua Kartoum, bridge engineer, Folsom, California.

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- D.J. Belarbi, Professor of Structural Engineering at the University of Missouri, Rolla.
- Bert Swan, consulting geologist, San Francisco, California.
- Jelena Pantelic, architect and disaster management specialist with the World Bank, Washington, D.C.

Among the topics of special interest to this EERI Earthquake Reconnaissance Team are problems caused by earthquakes in complex urban environments such as Algeria's capitol city, engineered buildings (hospitals, industrial facilities), both those that performed well under the conditions of last week's earthquake and those that failed, government response and public policy issues, and how this earthquake affected the region's infrastructure, including water, power, roads and highways.

**The Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI)** is a national, nonprofit, technical society of engineers, geoscientists, architects, planners, public officials, and social scientists working to reduce earthquake risk by advancing the science and practice of earthquake engineering, by improving understanding of the impact of earthquakes on the physical, social, economic, political and cultural environment, and by advocating comprehensive and realistic measures for reducing the harmful effects of earthquakes.

For more information please contact Marjorie Greene, EERI Manager of Learning From Earthquakes program or Victoria Costello, EERI Press Contact.

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