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Garuda Indonesia B-737-400 Crash



JAKARTA, March 7.

A Boeing 737-400 of the Indonesian state carrier Garuda crashed and burst into flames on landing at Yogyakarta airport today morning. According to Garuda spokeswoman the manifest showed 133 passengers and seven active crew were on board. The plane's passengers included Australian journalists and diplomatic staff covering a visit to Indonesia by Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, who was not on the plane but had been expected in Yogyakarta later in the day.

At least 49 people were killed and many injured. 20 bodies were removed from the plane and 28 were still on the aircraft and one person died on the way to hospital, Bambang, a provincial spokesman at the disaster site, told the Detikcom news website. The rest of the 140 people on board, including seven crew, were taken alive. The injured are being treated at a number of hospitals in the region, the reported added.



"The plane overshot the runway during landing and hit the airport fences," Julianto, one of the survivors, told a TV channel. "I was sitting at the back of the plane and people started to jump out of the plane after that. Some even jumped into the paddy field," he said.

The plane's fuselage was burned to a twisted shell, and thick white smoke spewed from the wreckage.

It is opined that excess speed might have caused the accident.



Indonesia's flight safety record has come under renewed scrutiny since an Adam Air Boeing 737-400 with 102 passengers and crew on board crashed into the sea off the island of Sulawesi on New year's day with no survivors.

