

20/07/2019

Minor damage to Aghia Irene Church due to quake in central Athens; aftershocks continuing



Reports of minor damage were coming in from areas of central Athens on Friday afternoon, following the 5.1 Richter earthquake that shook the Greek capital and continued aftershocks.

Pieces of marble have fallen onto the road outside the Aghia Irene Church on Aioulou Street and in front of the Athens City Hall on Kotzia Square.

An old building at 90 Ermou Street has collapsed without causing any injuries, though a car parked in front of it was damaged.

There were also reports of fallen plaster in the parliament building and the building housing the Athens first-instance public prosecution.

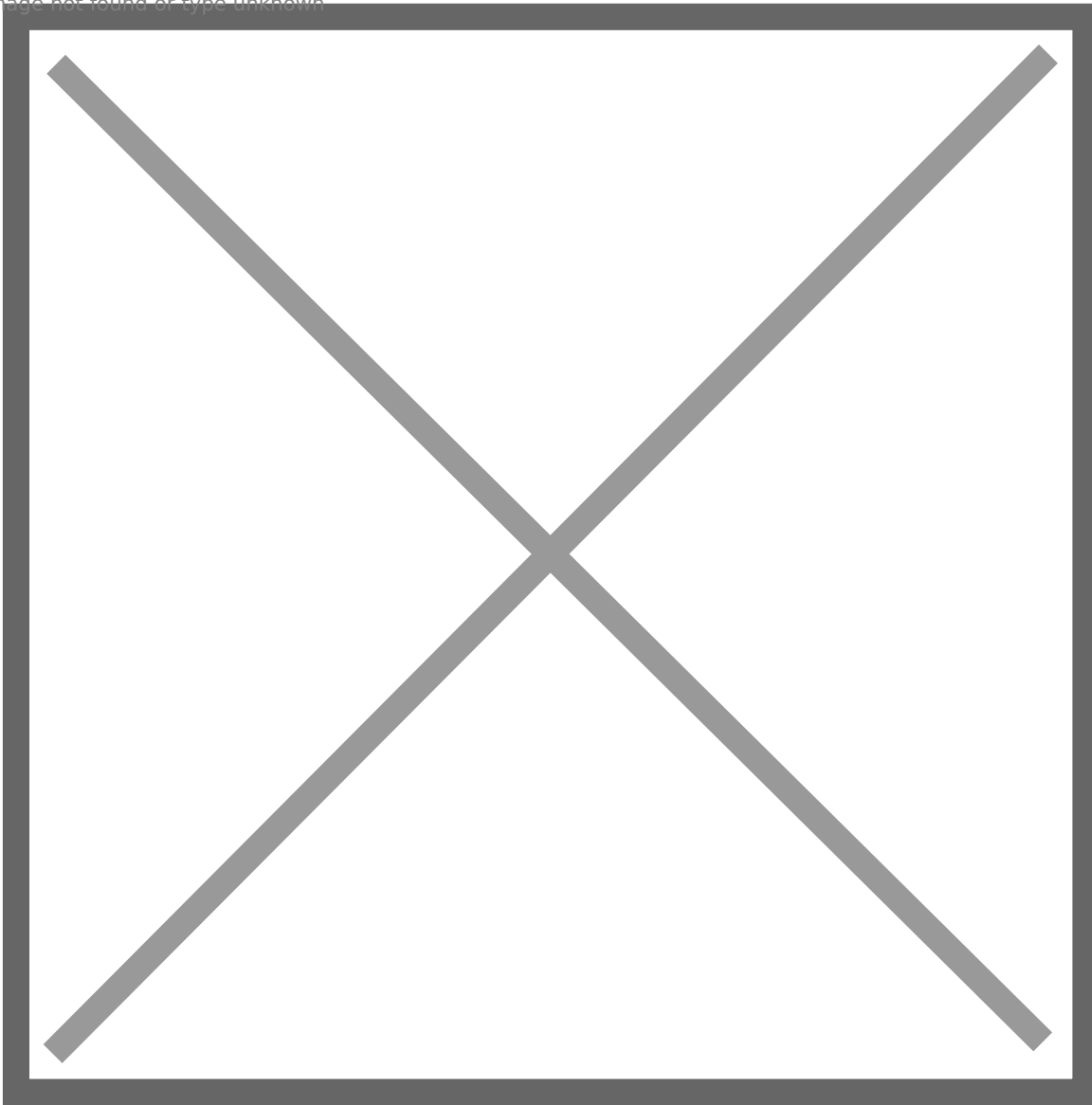
The strong earthquake occurred at 14:15 and its magnitude was initially reported to be 5.3 Richter but later revised to 5.1 Richter, according to the EuroMediterranean Seismic Centre.

According to fire brigade sources, the fire brigade has received 15 calls to rescue people trapped in lifts during the tremor. A number of citizens have reported damage such as falling plaster or broken windows but no serious incident involving damage to houses or other buildings at this time.

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Civil Protection Central Coordinating Body to convene at 16:30 on Friday

The Civil Protection Central Coordination Body will convene at the Fire Brigade's Operations Coordinating Centre in the Athens district of Halandri at 16:30 on Friday as a precaution, to review the situation after the 5.1 Richter quake that shook the capital at 14:13 and plan the action of the agencies involved.

According to the latest reports, the fire brigade has received 76 emergency calls, including 31 calls to free people trapped in lifts and 45 other calls for help.

Four or five uninhabited houses in Piraeus, the Athens suburb of Egaleo and the Monastiraki district have collapsed, according to reports.

City of Athens mobilises to record damage, take protective measures following quake

Services at the City of Athens municipality had mobilised fully on Friday afternoon,

in order to record any damage caused by a strong earthquake at 14:13 on Friday and take precautionary and protective measures to avoid possible injuries from damaged infrastructure.

The municipality's civil protection service convened on Friday, with Athens Mayor Georgios Broulias in the chair, while municipality services have started cordoning off the 88 dangerous empty buildings in central Athens, to prevent pedestrians from passing and cars from parking underneath them.

According to sources, inspections in the municipality's day-care centres have found no damage so far while inspections of other municipal buildings are continuing.

Minor damages at parliament building, Tasoulas orders thorough inspection

Parliament President Kostas Tasoulas has ordered a thorough inspection of the parliament building, where minor damages have been recorded, including wall cracks and a broken window at one of the parliament's side entrances at the Parliament Peristyle, where there is an exhibition on Rigas Feraios.

Tasoulas told parliament workers to leave half an hour early on Friday, while children at the parliament's kindergarten were escorted safely outside after the tremor.

Disused conveyor belt collapses at Piraeus port after quake

An old conveyor belt collapsed at the port of Piraeus after the earthquake that shook the capital Athens, the Coast Guard announced on Friday.

The disused 100-metre-long conveyor belt is located at Gate E1, where members of the Hellenic Rescue Team (EMAK) are investigating the site.

No injuries or persons trapped in the ruins have been reported so far.

- Source: [ANA-MPA news](#)