

# Basic Detail Report

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## Giuseppe Saragat reassuring the survivors of the Belice earthquake in Sicily 1968 in front of a sign post to 'Castelvetrano', a Sicilian town

### Date

1968-1968

### Medium

gelatin silver print

### Description

The 1968 Belice earthquake sequence took place in Sicily between 14 and 15 January. The largest shock measured 5.5 on the moment magnitude scale, with five others of magnitude 5+. The maximum perceived intensity was X (Intense) on the Mercalli intensity scale. The earthquake sequence, centred between the towns of Gibellina, Salaparuta and Poggioreale, killed at least 231 people, possibly more than 400, with between 632 and about 1000 injured and left 100,000 homeless. It is known in Italy as Terremoto del Belice. The reality manifested itself in all its terrible evidence only when they reached the first aid near the epicenter roughly placed between Gibellina , Salaparuta and Poggioreale : the streets were almost sucked out of the earth. As a result many links with affected countries were still impossible twenty four hours after the violent earthquake. This made it even more challenging for rescue teams to help. In the following days President of the Republic Giuseppe Saragat and the interior minister Paolo Emilio Taviani visited the area. There was also more than a thousand firefighters, the Red Cross , the ' Army , the police .

**Dimensions**

Overall: 21.3 x 30.3 cm (8 3/8 x 12 in.)