

# A PATH OF RUIN!



Jamaica residents yesterday sift through devastation wrought by Hurricane Dean, which killed two on the island. Photo by AP

## Dean roars past Jamaica and targets Mexico as Category 5

BY BALFORD HENRY  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

KINGSTON, Jamaica — After leaving its deadly calling card in Jamaica, Hurricane Dean strengthened into a monstrous Category 5 storm last night, and was hurtling toward the Yucatan's tourist playgrounds early today.

Jamaica, which had been squarely in the path of the powerful storm, survived Dean's wrath with a flooded capitol, hundreds of lost roofs and mudslides in the mountains, as well as at least two deaths.

A 14-year-old was killed when she was hit in the head by a stone block that fell from the roof of her home; and a 33-year-old bed-ridden woman drowned when rain runoff flooded her house.

Much of the island was also without power and it may take up to a week to get the lights back on. Things could have been far worse if Dean's eye had passed over the island instead of miles south.

Those who made it through with damaged houses considered themselves lucky.

Trevor Haywood was one of them. His house north of Kingston was badly damaged by the roaring winds.

"At one point, when the roof blew off, I thought I would see St. Peter next," he said. "My life has been spared and that is most important."

So far, about a dozen people have died in Dean's wake, including four people killed by landslides in Haiti.

The Jamaica Tourist Board said the major tourist resorts sustained minimal damage and the Montego Bay and Kingstown airports were quick to reopen.

It's what comes next that has people worried.

Dean is being fed by warm, 90-degree tropical waters that pushed its deadly winds to



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 Hurricane Dean

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Cancun, Cozumel and Belize were deserted, while airports were packed with tourists still waiting for a final flight out.

At Cancun's airport, Eric Morovich, of California, said he'd already tried to book a ferry, rent a boat and charter a plane. "The next option is swimming, I guess," he joked.

The Mexican state oil company pulled more than 14,000 workers from offshore oil platforms in the southern Gulf of Mexico, leaving the rigs abandoned to the storm. Production cuts are expected to be 2.7 million barrels of oil a day.

**With News Wire Services**

160 mph last night, officially moving it from a Category 4 to the most powerful Category 5 status.

Category 5 storms — capable of catastrophic damage — are rare, with only three having hit the U.S. since record keeping began.

As of last night, it looked like the U.S. would be spared the worst of the killer 'cane.

Still, evacuations were ordered as far north as the southern tip of Texas, where officials urged residents to flee "the kill zone."

The beachfront resorts of