

STORM SURGE AT HERNANI

EYE WITNESS REPORTS

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EASTERN
SAMAR

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ISLAND



HILL



PALM PLANTATION



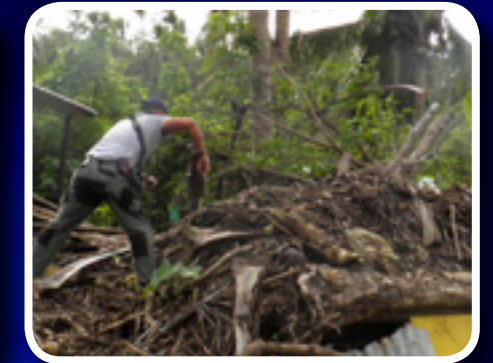
RICE FIELDS



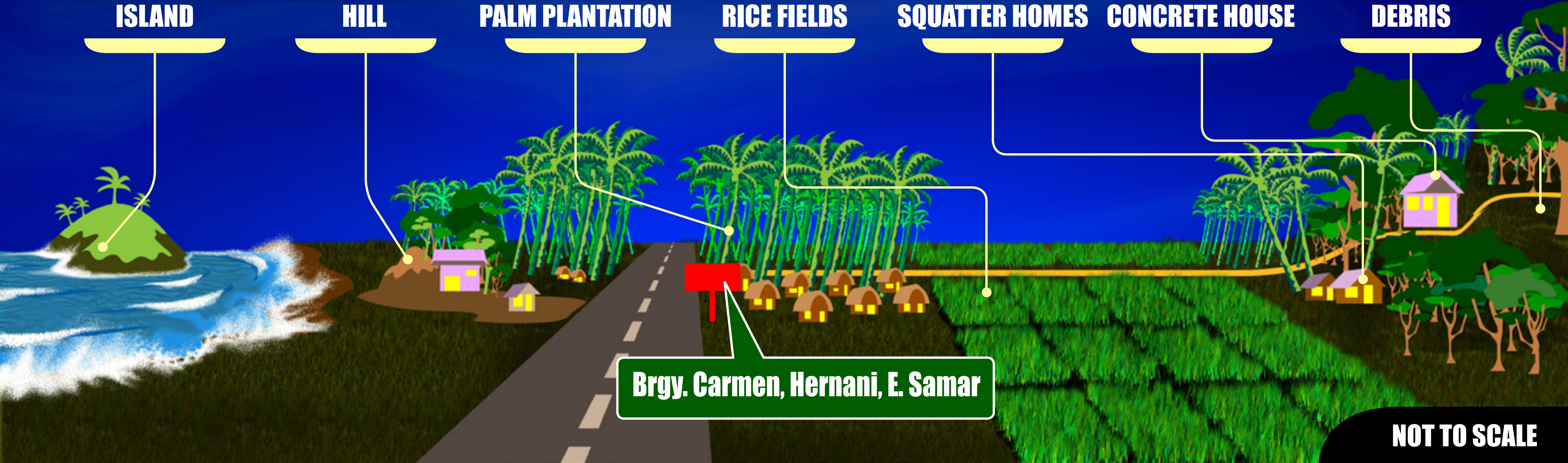
SQUATTER HOMES



CONCRETE HOUSE



DEBRIS



Brgy. Carmen, Hernani, E. Samar

NOT TO SCALE

ISLAND

As Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) approached the ocean swept inland to the base of the homes located on either side of the highway. Most people immediately evacuated and ran through the rice fields to higher grounds and the coconut plantations on the hillside. Soon thereafter a tsunami-like wall of water swept over the little offshore island. Eye witnesses watching from the safety of the hills reported that the island became invisible as the storm waves rolled over it.

Home



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HILL

The pastor, his wife and their three children died as their house was washed away. The house, as shown here, has been rebuilt in the same location. A dilapidated concrete structure adjacent to it closer to the highway was not washed away.

Home



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PALM PLANTATION

Nipa hut type homes such as the ones shown in these photos were located among the coconut plantations on either side of the highway. The tsunami-like waves, extending inland, overran and destroyed virtually all of these nipa huts.

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RICE FIELDS

People ran up the pathway between the rice fields to the higher grounds of the hills as the ocean rose and washed to the basements of the houses located on either side of the highway. Most of the people that survived ran then to the hills before the storm surge “tidal waves” hit that washed the houses away. People that did not evacuate at this point died.

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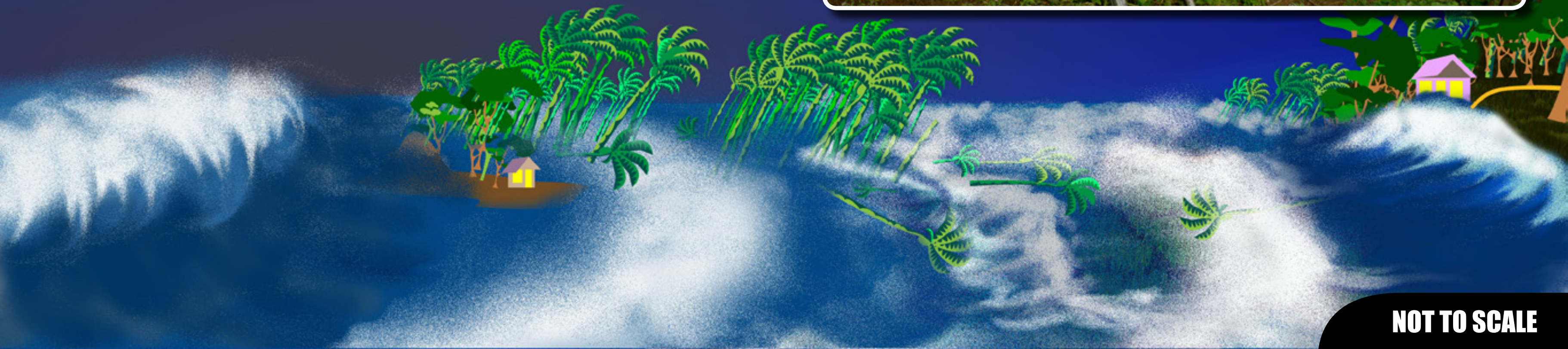


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SQUATTER HOMES

The evacuated squatter homes located at the base of the hill were largely washed away or badly damaged and have been rebuilt as shown in this photo.

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CONCRETE HOUSE

The owners are apparently neighborhood rice buyers and have a threshing machine. When the typhoon hit people closed the windows and gathered inside the house, using it as an evacuation center. Water rose to about two feet up the front of the house and then splashed inside, breaking the windows. About half of the roof also blew away. After the typhoon the broken windows were replaced with louver windows. Storm shutters were also fabricated and the damaged roof was replaced.

Home



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DEBRIS

After the typhoon a new home was built by a carpenter with more homes being constructed in this safer location. Old lumber was used, washed up by the storm, as well as new lumber made from older, fallen coconut trees. New roof sheets are thin and are largely resting on a coconut lumber frame without any really strong underlayment support to withstand strong winds (as is a part of the more costly building code requirements in the USA). Washed-up storm debris, as seen in the photographs, was put in piles.

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STORM SURGE (`TSUNAMI`)

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) stated that Super Typhoon Haiyan, known locally as Yolanda, made landfall on November 8th, 2013 at 4.40am local time over Guiuan, Eastern Samar, Philippines.

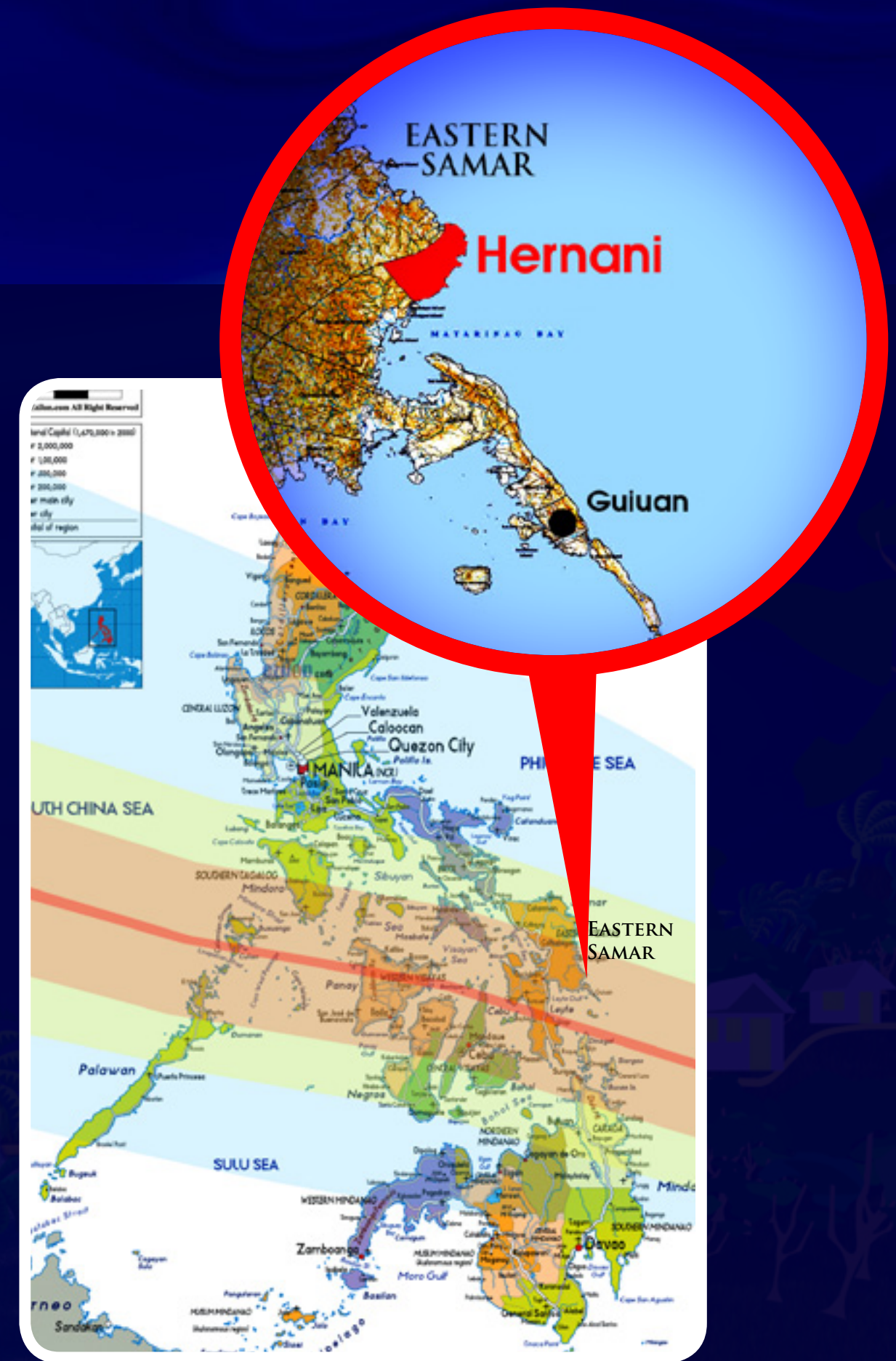
The town of Hernani is located adjacent to the Pacific Ocean in East Samar. A typhoon survivor in Barangay Carmen, a village in Hernani, related the following:

“Before the typhoon hit the sky still provided visibility. Then it started happening. The ocean rose and washed across the basements of the houses (that were located on both sides of the highway) towards the rice fields. People then ran through the rice fields to the mountains (to the hills above the rice fields). Then suddenly the water went very high and blocked the view of the little offshore island with the color of the water turning dark (perhaps a reflection). After the water went over the island it splashed around and came towards the mountain. There was almost zero visibility and the people on the mountain started shouting Go to the mountains! Save your lives! and gesturing for the others to immediately run up the hill which most did as they were already close to the mountain.

After the water came inland towards the mountain it went back again into the ocean (receded). Some people attempted to run back down the mountain to collect and save some items from their homes. One man was well ahead, running back through the rice fields to look for his wife. When the second wave of water came he disappeared and never came back. They found him later, drowned, bloated and full of water.

The wind was twisting, swirling and howling high and low like a siren. It sounded as if someone was cutting coconut lumber at the sawmill or revved up the motor and shifted gears in a motorcycle. The tops of coconuts trees then started twisting, swirling and rotating. People could hear a snapping sound when the trunks broke and a thump when they fell to the ground. With zero visibility people were very scared and some thought the end of the world had come.”

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