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## Tsunami survivors mourn across continents

**FIVE YEARS OF SORROW:** The most devastating tsunami in modern times killed hundreds of thousands of people. Yesterday Indian Ocean states remembered them

REUTERS, PATONG, THAILAND  
 Sunday, Dec 27, 2009, Page 4

Thousands of saffron-robed Thai monks chanted and prayed for victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami yesterday as Asia marked the fifth anniversary of one of history's worst natural disasters.

The gathering of monks in Ban Nam Khem, a small fishing village on Thailand's Andaman Sea coast that lost nearly half its 5,000 people, was one of hundreds of solemn events across Asia in memory of the towering waves that crashed ashore with little warning on Dec. 26, 2004, killing 226,000 people in 13 countries.

"All souls from all nationalities, wherever you are now, please receive the prayers the monks are saying for you," said Kularb Pliamyai, who lost 10 family members in Ban Nam Khem.

In Banda Aceh, Indonesia, about 100 people took part in a prayer ceremony close to a fishing boat that landed on the rooftop of a two-story house after being swept kilometers inland.

Indonesia was the worst-hit country, with the number of dead and missing passing 166,000. Massive reconstruction aid in Banda Aceh has rebuilt a new city on top of the ruins, and many survivors are only now putting memories of the waves behind them.

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A Red Cross volunteer sits between open umbrellas printed with portraits of smiling children representing those orphaned in the Indian Ocean tsunami at the tsunami museum in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, yesterday. In Banda Aceh, survivors gathered in neighborhood mosques or homes to remember those killed.

PHOTO: REUTERS