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Pakistan hotel bombing kills at least 60 by Masroor Gilani

By: AFP on: 21.09.2008 [00:45] (402 reads)

Article image

(4884 bytes) [c]

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Pakistan hotel bombing kills at least 60 by Masroor Gilani

1 hour, 51 minutes ago

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - A suicide bomber detonated a truck packed with explosives at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad on Saturday, killing at least 60 people in a brazen attack in the heart of the Pakistan capital.

Around 200 people were wounded, some critically, and there were fears more dead would be found in the fiery wreckage of the hotel, a popular gathering place for politicians, foreigners and the Pakistan elite.

Officials said they were worried the building, engulfed in flame after the blast ruptured a gas pipeline, would collapse. A security official said many people leapt to their deaths from upper floors rather than be burnt alive.

The bombing came shortly after new President Asif Ali Zardari, who faces a struggle to rein in Al-Qaeda and Taliban militants, delivered his inaugural address to parliament only a few hundred metres away.

It was one of the deadliest attacks in an increasingly bloody campaign by militants in Pakistan, a vital ally in the US-led "war on terror," and presented Zardari with a major challenge just days after he took office.

"Terrorism is a cancer in Pakistan, we are determined, God willing, we will rid the country of this cancer," Zardari said in a televised address to the nation. "We will not be deterred by these cowards," he said.

"Pakistanis are brave and fearless people. They are not afraid of death."

The attack appeared to be timed to cause the maximum number of casualties, coming as the hotel was thronged with families holding their evening meal to break the daily Ramadan fast.

Eyewitness Mohammad Jamil said the truck exploded just outside the heavily-secured hotel's gates. He said the force of the blast sent the truck flying into the air, and knocked him over onto the street.

"For a few seconds I was in shock and did not know what had happened. Then I remembered the deafening noise," Jalil said.

The blast, so powerful it was heard for miles, blew an enormous crater in the ground and destroyed the outside wall of the compound. Buildings several kilometres away had windows blown out from the impact.

Before officials pushed back the media over fears the devastated structure would collapse, an AFP photographer saw mutilated bodies amid the carnage.

Another witness, Dirome Anthony, told the BBC that there was a moment of quiet after the blast before debris started falling from the sky. He said a human hand landed near his car.

The government ordered the army to try to clear away the debris. But senior police officer Saqib Sultan said rescuers were unable to search for victims deep inside the building which was still burning early Sunday.

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"The death toll is 60 and it may go up," said a senior security official who declined to be named.

Hospital officials said a US national was among the dead. The security official said women, children and an unknown number of foreigners had died.

The government had received word two days ago of a possible attack near the parliamentary offices, interior ministry official Rehman Malik said.

IntelCenter, a US organisation that tracks militants, said an Al-Qaeda leader who claimed responsibility for a previous bombing in Pakistan threatened new attacks in a video this month to mark the anniversary of September 11.

The Marriott was attacked previously in 2004 and 2007. But while nearly 1,300 people have been killed this year alone in a wave of militant violence across Pakistan, attacks in Islamabad have been relatively rare.

But as Al-Qaeda and Taliban militants have tried to establish a safe-haven in the tribal areas, attacks have spread to the capital more often.

US President George W. Bush condemned the attack, which he said "is a reminder of the ongoing threat faced by Pakistan, the United States, and all those who stand against violent extremism."

In Britain, Foreign Secretary David Miliband said the "disgraceful" bombing had strengthened the resolve to fight militancy.

Although a close anti-terror US ally since 9/11, critics have repeatedly insisted that elements of Pakistan's powerful intelligence service give clandestine backing to Islamist militants.

Zardari will meet US President George W. Bush in the United States next week for the first time since he took the oath of office on September 9.

The Bush administration has accused Taliban Islamic militants and Al-Qaeda followers of using the unruly border areas as bases from which to direct a growing deadly insurgency in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Meanwhile strains have emerged between Islamabad and Washington over strikes by US forces on Pakistani tribal areas, carried out by US forces operating in Afghanistan.

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And so it begins

by capncrunch1stOhm on 21.09.2008 [02:37]

escalating Bombing campaign for world attention
capture and detention of leader to be used as a Zarquawi propaganda tool

Yes, the Zionists have struck again

by qvh on 21.09.2008 [03:43]

This is a Zionist attack, a false flag terrorist action, a signature instrument of warfare of the Israelis.

Have a look at the crater; it is enormous: 40 meters deep.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/09/20/explosion-at-pakistan-mar_n_127943.html

A closeup of the crater:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/21/world/asia/21islamabad.html>

Only a small nuke, one that is less than 1kton (a mininuke), even smaller perhaps, 0.1kton (a micronuke) could have done this.

Otherwise, they would have had to have found a pretty large truck, one that holds 100 tons or more of explosives to have done this. Unlikely.

Those people in the picture are unaware they are walking unprotected in a radioactive zone. The radiation is not massive as this is a thermonuclear bomb, not a pure fission bomb, but the effects will show up in time later with a mysterious epidemic of deaths.

Little do these people know that the Israelis have struck before in a similar fashion, most notably in Indonesia, in the Bali bombing (the first one; the second one was done to destroy evidence), and elsewhere eg. Lebanon. Joe Vialls has covered this topic well.

And of course, CIA military officers were the target. The Zionists are simply setting up the Americans against the Pakistanis.

The Americans will be used like this, as false flag targets, until they are of no use to the Zionists anymore.

This is how the Afghani Taliban were set up.

It looks like Pakistan is the new Afghanistan.

Look for more false flags with Pakistanis as patsies.

questions

by Sandy on 21.09.2008 [06:44]

This story does not yet make sense as reported.

If the truck "exploded" (is the eye witness reliable who said "through the air" as that is important forensically) OUTSIDE the gates and somehow ignited a gas pipeline (how deep do they run??) which from OUTSIDE the gate caused the burning of the Marriott.....

What pipeline? How deep? What kind of gas? How between the truck detonation and the Pipe allegedly? what was the surface of the ground immediately after the "Truck" detonation? Why the large crater when this is not ballistically consistent with a truck bomb?

zap

The Marriott Hotel

by qvh on 21.09.2008 [07:01]

caught fire from the intense heat given off by the fireball that is formed in a nuclear explosion. The thermal energy is great enough to make distant objects catch fire. You will find that among the wounded there will be many with flashburns, characteristic of nuclear detonations. Victims with inexplicably severe flashburns were numerous in the Bali bombing. I would predict that there were also reports of people being vaporized; one second they were there, the next minute they weren't, not that the mainstream media would report on the strange aspects of this bombing.

And the size of the crater also points to some large-sized detonation. A truck carrying 100-1000 tons of conventional explosives would have been noticed, and where would al Qaeda get hold of this stuff?

Small bombings aren't good enough for the Zionists in their false flags. They have to make the bombing spectacular enough causing as many deaths as possible to catch the attention of the Americans and incite their rage and fear of the Pakistanis or whoever the Zionists want blamed. Logistically this would be hard to accomplish with conventional explosives. Hence their use of micro/mini-nukes.

Have a look at this image

by qvh on 21.09.2008 [07:09]

<http://images.huffingtonpost.com/gen/39664/thumbs/s-PAKISTAN-large.jpg>

This looks like the scene outside the WTC with the burned out cars.

<http://www.drjudywood.com/articles/DEW/dewpics/Image8.jpg>
The burned cars were far from the WTC, they were in another block from the WTC.

Why do they look the same?

Because they were blown up the same way, and by the same people, the Mossad.

QVH you a shill? We moved past 911. 911 is open cold case

by capncrunch1stOhm on 21.09.2008 [08:08]

idiot recently put out a book and the msm caught the story of how everyone would be amazed at the effecient killing tactics that got Iraq to where its at today obviously an assessment made after the fact and full of flawed reasoning and objective rationalizations of the strategies employed in Iraq only focusing on the positives while dissmising the negatives.

They would actualy be amazed by those of us that assessed the whole thing as it happened. From the Iraqi clab brigades created through the Iraqi interior ministry, Zarquawi propaganda, false flag bombings to get the population to seek security to the creation of the awakenings.

Czech envoy killed in Islamabad hotel blast

by Zoraida on 21.09.2008 [09:52]

Pakistani PM: Czech envoy killed in Islamabad hotel blast

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) — Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani Sunday confirmed that the ambassador of the Czech Republic to Pakistan has been killed in Saturday's suicide bomb attack at a five-star hotel in Islamabad.

"The ambassador has been confirmed dead in the attack," Gilani told reporters after visiting the injured at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences Islamabad.

Czech ambassador Ivo Zdarek was missing since the attack.

Zdarek, 47, who used to serve in Vietnam, was appointed ambassador to Pakistan last month and has been staying at the hotel, the embassy sources said.

Earlier, doctors at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences Islamabad said that bodies of a Czech national and a foreigner lady were brought to the hospital Sunday.

He was married with two sons, according to the website of the Czech embassy in Hanoi, where he was most recently posted.

Gilani said that 53 people had been confirmed dead in the deadly truck bomb attack.

ht tp://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-09/21/content_10087294.htm

Tonys Story

by capncrunch1stOhm on 21.09.2008 [10:07]

Intresting things in this report

ht tp://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/09/21/ap5450972.html

did it happen 1-2-3-4 or 4-3-2-1

sad

by capncrunch1stOhm on 21.09.2008 [10:20]

There gonna do what they feel is the perfected Iraqi strategy on Pakistan. There stupid, the president they depend on may end up on a plane out of there in another coup de tat.

911 is an open cold case?

by qvh on 21.09.2008 [13:15]

Do you mean you don't know what happened? Just because you don't, don't assume others don't as well.

Shill for whom?

well picked Cap

by Sandy on 21.09.2008 [13:19]

Gee , someone was lucky with that photo!

The poor people inside.

Cap, you sure have pointed out an interesting 1234!!!

"..Earlier, a U.S. State Department official led three colleagues through the rubble from the charred building, one of them bleeding heavily from a wound on the side of his head. One of the four, who identified himself only as Tony, said they had been moving toward the rear of a Chinese restaurant inside the hotel after a first, small blast when a second explosion hurled them against the back wall.

"Then we saw a big truck coming to the gates," he said. "After that, it was just smoke and darkness."..."

Got that? THEN WE SAW A BIG TRUCK COMING TO THE GATES..."After the explosion had hurled them against the wall. hmmm

Did they make a mistake? Wonder if these were the "CIA targets" (yeah sure), and would be valuable to know the orientation of the Chinese restaurant and hence the blast vector.

But if it IS a correct quote, how could they see the Truck coming AFTER the explosion? Weird. Truck a failure then? IF that is a true order of events.

Wonder if it was a gas line and if it was, where was it, how deep and how on earth could a small explosion penetrate deeply enough through ground from a surface vector point to result in deep earth penetration???

Just like Bali and Jakarta,, it doesn't yet make sense.

It makes sense

by qvh on 21.09.2008 [13:39]

when you realize it was a micro/mininuke detonated at the same time that a truck is driving to the hotel as a decoy. The truck would not have had enough explosives to cause that kind of explosion and crater. The gas pipeline is just an excuse because they know people would start to question the intensity of the explosion.

I don't think there's any mystery about this at all like there is no mystery about the 9/11 attack on the WTC or about the Bali bombing.

Timing, and other thoughts

by Richard on 21.09.2008 [16:20]

This bombing occurs just days prior to Zardari's attending the 63rd UN General Assembly session. Ahmadinejad will deliver a speech, as well. Zardari has already started the "we will fight the terrorists' crap talk. Good boy, now sit.

It seems there is a "radical Islamists kill CIA agents" spin being spun. Also, as others have pointed out, witnesses detail TWO explosions happening, like Oklahoma City in 95.

The US is in effect punishing the people of Pakistan for having the audacity to be enraged at the US for killing its citizens. In other words, the US is saying to Pakistan with this attack "you see, you won't let us kill the bad guys and look what happens, we told you so." It will not work, of course.

The timing is just right, as a huge "terrorist attack" sets the tone for the new government, in respect to its attitude toward "militants". And as I said before, it occurs just prior to the 63rd UN G. A. session.

But all of this only reveals how detached the West is from reality. The Pakistani people won't buy any of it. It will only cause the US to be more hated and distrusted.

The coming days will reveal more to us...

A truck carrying 100-1000 tons of conventional explosives would have been noticed

by djandjolic on 21.09.2008 [16:21]

Is there any truck around in Pakiatan that can carry the weight of two "Abram Tanks" each weight 50 tons???. Forget a truck that can carry 10 "Abram tanks" or 10 "Merkava tanks"!!!

Peace day!

by pilot-x on 21.09.2008 [16:21]

I just discovered that months of my comments to the Globe and Mail are invisible to other readers. What an embarrassing waste of time and effort. TRUST NO ONE
VIVE LA RESISTANCE

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