

# BALI NIGHTCLUB BOMBING

**Situation:** Suicide bombings kill over 200 on the island of Bali in Indonesia.

At 11.05 PM on 12 October 2002, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive-filled vest in a popular nightclub for Western tourists in the district of Kuta on the island of Bali in Indonesia. Seconds later, a large vehicle-borne explosive device was detonated in the same area causing massive destruction. In all, 202 people were killed during the attack in Kuta. Approximately the same time as the attacks in Kuta, an additional bomb was detonated outside the US Consulate in Denpasar.



Jemaah Islamiyah, a radical Islamic group with ties to al-Qaeda conducted the attack. Al-Qaeda apparently requested members of Jemaah Islamiyah to conduct an attack on a "soft target" within Indonesia. Jemaah Islamiyah agreed to carry out the attack, most likely wanting to target Australian nationals in response to the Australian supported operations in Afghanistan that took place in 2001 during Ramadan, Islam's holy fasting month.

The attacks of 12 October 2002 represent the worst acts of terrorism in the history of Indonesia.

Be aware of your immediate surroundings. If overseas, look for signs that you might be in a place targeted by terrorists. Terrorists may target places where large groups of Americans and other foreigners congregate.



detonated the explosives at approximately 11:05.

On a routine afternoon on 12 October 2002, thousands of people gathered in the Kuta district of Bali, to enjoy its many restaurants and nightclubs popular with foreign tourists. One of the favorite destinations within Kuta was Paddy's Bar, often frequented by Western tourists and specifically Australians. During the evening, a terrorist wearing an explosive vest entered Paddy's Bar. Apparently, the individual never aroused the suspicion of tourists or nightclub employees and

It is believed that the explosive device inside the vest was small, causing few fatalities and only moderate damage. However, the explosion caused people within Paddy's Bar to flee into the street to seek cover. People from nearby restaurants and bars streamed into the street to find out what caused the explosion and to offer assistance to the injured.

Seconds later, an additional explosion occurred. Across the street from Paddy's Bar, in front of the Sari Club, a second suicide bomber detonated a Mitsubishi minivan loaded with explosives. The explosion was massive, creating a crater in the street one-meter deep and destroying neighboring buildings and shattering glass for blocks. This coordinated attack killed 202 innocent people, including 88 Australians, 24 British, and 7 Americans. Hundreds more suffered severe burns and injuries.

Be alert to the possibility of secondary explosions. Terrorists use secondary explosions to target onlookers, law enforcement, and other first responders that congregate in an area in response to an initial event.

At approximately the same time as the explosions in Kuta, an additional explosion took place outside the US Consulate in Denpasar.

However, the device was small and not designed to cause mass casualties and high levels of damage. Unlike the devices used in Kuta, the



bomb in Denpasar was not detonated by a suicide bomber, but rather placed by a motorcycle rider and detonated using a cell phone. It appears that the device did not contain a large amount of explosives, but instead, was packed mostly with human excrement. The explosion at the US Consulate in Denpasar caused minor injuries to one person.

A terrorist attack in a specific city or neighborhood can indicate a threat for a much larger area. If an attack occurs in the general area where you are, maintain vigilance and take precautions to reduce your risk.



Indonesian authorities, with assistance from Australia, quickly began an investigation into the Bali bombings. Interviews of eyewitnesses to the attacks identified the presence of a white Mitsubishi minivan suspiciously parked in front of the Sari Club shortly before the bombings. Eventually, investigators were able to find the vehicle chassis with its serial number. Tracing the serial number, authorities were able to identify Amrozi bin Nurhasyim, a known member of Jemaah Islamiyah as the owner of the minivan.

Through interrogations of Amrozi, surveillance, and cell phone records, authorities were able to identify the principal conspirators in the Bali Bombings. Included among those arrested were Ali Imron, Amrozi's brother, and the radical Islamic cleric Abu Bakar Bashir. The operational chief of Jemaah Islamiyah, August Riduon Isamuddin (also known as Hambali), apparently provided the funding for the attack with support of Al Qaeda. He was arrested in Thailand and remains in US custody. For their parts in the Bali bombings Imron was sentenced to life in prison, with Bashir receiving a two and a half year prison term. Amrozi was executed by firing squad on 9 November 2008 along with two others convicted for assisting in the bombings, Imam Samudra and his other brother Ali Ghufron.

In the event of an attack, evacuate the area immediately. However, make mental notes of anything suspicious to assist the investigation after the attack.