Embassy of India Kabul

KAB/815/2/11(94)

April 2, 2011

Security Advisory

On April 1, 2011 at 1630 hrs, at least 14 people including seven foreigners were killed in an attack in which a large crowd of demonstrators angry at the burning of a copy of the Quran by a US group. The protesters attacked at an operations centre for the UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan) in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif. The dead include three staff members and four International armed security guards at the operation centre. Five demonstrators were also killed. Many staff were also wounded, including the head of UNMA's office. It is revealed that many of the demonstrators were armed and, while the security guards tried their best, the crowd was so large that they were soon outnumbered.

2. Reports from Kandahar indicates that several demonstrators have joined a demonstration over the same issue on April 2, 2011. They were later involved in setting tires aflame throughout the city, burning cars and attacking journalists trying to cover the disorder. Shops and businesses were closed and most people stayed off the street. Sixteen people have been injured in the demonstration. It is apprehended that such demonstration may spread in other provinces.

3. Further, a team of suicide bombers attempted to breach the front gate at an American military base in Kabul, Camp Phoenix. Two of them were disguised as women, wearing full length burqas and two others were carrying small arms. One of the burqa-clad bombers blew up at the gate at the camp, and the other managed to get about five yards inside the gate before also detonating. The other two attackers were shot and killed by guards before they could enter.

4. All Indian nationals are requested to maintain special vigilance during coming days and unnecessary movements in the city may please be avoided. Awareness of the prevailing security scenario via local visual/print media as well as through interaction with fellow colleagues is also suggested.

5. This advisory is being issued to keep the addressees fully aware of the perceived threats for abundant caution and not to create panic, indiscretion or fear.

Public Affairs Wing Embassy of India, Kabul

All Indians in Afghanistan