

**Embassy of India
Kabul**

KAB/815/2/2009 (30)

August 4, 2009

SECURITY ADVISORY

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- **Attack on Police Convoy in Herat on August 3, 2009**
 - **Rocket attacks in Kabul city on August 4, 2009 early morning**
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Details

On August 3, 2009 in the forenoon a Remote Controlled Roadside Bomb attack, claimed by the Taliban, killed at least 12 people and injured 29 others in Herat city in Western Afghanistan. The RCIED was aimed at the convoy of a local police chief but killed mainly passers-by when it went off during rush hour near a blood bank in Herat. Among those killed in the blast were a woman, a 12-year-old girl and two policemen. Khoja Issa, a District Police Chief was seriously injured.

2. Today, on August 4, 2009 in the early morning, there were three rocket attacks on Kabul city at 0353, 0413 and 0445 hours. Reportedly 5 to 7 Rockets (probably long range BM - 1 rockets) were fired from Deh-Sabz area in the North East of Kabul city. The rockets landed and exploded in Wazir Akbar Khan (hit a house of Senior Interior Ministry official about 200 meters from US Embassy premises on the main road in Central Kabul), Charahi Abdul Haq and Microyan residential areas. As per media reports, two persons were killed and one child was injured in the attack. A few round of sporadic gunfire came shortly after the second attack.

3. Violence has escalated across Afghanistan before the Presidential election scheduled to be held on August 20, 2009. Taliban have vowed to disrupt the election and have called on Afghans to boycott the ballot, the second direct vote for president since Taliban regime was toppled in 2001. As per reports, July 2009 was the deadliest month for foreign forces in Afghanistan, with at least 71 ISAF/NATO personnel being killed, including 41 US troops. Britain has also suffered its worst battlefield casualties, with 22 killed in July, 2009 taking its toll in the 8-year-old war to 191. Civilians have also been killed at record rates and as per UN report 1,013 civilians had been killed between January and June 2009. According to UN, Taliban and other insurgents were responsible for 59 percent of those deaths.

4. There have also been a series of election-related attacks, with one of President Hamid Karzai's campaign convoys ambushed in southeastern Ghazni on August 1, 2009. A bodyguard was killed and a candidate for provincial elections was wounded. Among candidates attacked in the past 10 days, were Mohammad Qasim Fahim, Karzai's vice-presidential running mate. Fahim was unhurt. Several campaign offices have also been bombed.

5. As conveyed from time to time, threat inputs are being continuously received for more such attacks in the coming days in the run up to the Presidential Elections. Inputs suggest that there is large scale infiltration of militants including suicide bombers in different provinces including Kabul city to carry out similar kind of attacks including suicide/RCIED/IED/Stand-off attacks in the coming days. Embassies, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, important government buildings/installations, Kabul International Airport, Presidential palace, ISAF Hqrs and Camp Warehouse and High Court House near Massoud Circle continue to remain vulnerable targets of militants. Threat of kidnapping of internationals and Afghan government officials continue to remain very high in Kabul and other parts of Afghanistan.

6. In view of continuing grave threat inputs, all Indian Nationals in Afghanistan are requested to remain extra vigilant always and during road movements. You are also advised to constantly change your route/timings within the city so as not to form a fixed pattern of movement. Keeping a safe distance from International Military/ANA/ ANP convoys is again reiterated, as they continue to be a target of militants. It is also emphasized that unnecessary

movement in the city including the above mentioned areas may please be curtailed. Awareness of the prevailing security scenario via local visual/print media as well as through interaction with fellow colleagues is also suggested.

(Pranab Nanda)
Counsellor (PA)

All Indians in Afghanistan *(through Email)*