

**Embassy of India
Kabul**

KAB/815/2/2009 (34)

August 16, 2009

SECURITY ADVISORY

• **VBIED suicide attack in Shash Darak area of Kabul on August 15, 2009**

Details

On August 15, 2009 at around 0834 hours, a suicide car bomber exploded his VBIED near the front gate of NATO headquarters in Shash Darak area of Kabul city, killing seven people and wounding more than 91. It was the biggest insurgent attack in Kabul in six months and shook public confidence in the extensive network of checkpoints and armed guards that maintain security in the city. A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the explosion, which rattled windows across a wide area of the Afghan capital and sent a huge, mushroom cloud of dense smoke rising into the sky. The bomber managed to evade several rings of Afghan police and detonated his vehicle about 30 meters from the main entrance to the NATO base. After the blast, bloodied and dazed Afghans wandered the street including children who congregate outside the NATO gate to sell gum to Westerners. Windows of nearby antique shops and diplomatic residences were shattered. Taliban spokesman Mujahid said that it was carried out by one of their heroes, Ahmadullah from the Bagrami district of Kabul province and the target was the US Embassy and NATO Hqrs.

2. Fresh inputs suggest presence of Anti Government Elements including suicide bombers in Kabul city and its suburbs. Government establishments, Embassies, NATO/International Military bases, Afghan National Army/Afghan National Police and their convoys continue to remain vulnerable targets of the insurgents.

3. **As the election date is drawing near, inputs indicate stepping up of militant activities in Kabul city to disrupt the electoral process. In view of continuing grave threats, it is advised that your outside movements from August 18 till after the elections may be minimized to avoid any untoward incident.**

4. In view of the above, all Indian nationals residing in Afghanistan are requested to maintain special vigilance during this time. Keeping a safe distance from International Military/ANA/ANP convoys and government establishments is again reiterated, as they continue to be a target of militants. **It is also emphasized that unnecessary movement in the city including crowded areas may please be avoided.** You are also advised to constantly change your route/timings within the city so as not to form a fixed pattern of movement. 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)*