

**Embassy of India
Kabul**

KAB/815/2/2009 (39)

September 17, 2009

SECURITY ADVISORY

• **Vehicle Borne Suicide attack near Massoud Square on KIA road**

Details

Today, September 17, 2009 at about 1210 hours, there has been a Vehicle Borne Suicide IED attack against an International Military convoy close to Massoud square on Kabul International Airport Road in Police District 9, Microyan 3 (Bibe Maheru) area in Kabul. As per initial reports, more than 16 persons including Six Italian soldiers are killed and 55 civilians including 4 Italian soldiers were injured in the attack. Dozens of vehicles were destroyed, including at least one Humvee belonging to the ISAF. The explosion was so powerful that it shook surrounding building near the U.S. Embassy and an American military base. The smoke could be seen rising from the site soon after. The explosion occurred when reportedly a white Toyota filled with explosives slammed into the convoy, Italian Defense Minister Ignazio La Russa said in the Senate in Rome. Today's blast brings to 20 the number of Italian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan since Italy joined the NATO mission there in 2004. Italy has about 3,000 soldiers in a peacekeeping role in the northwest of the country.

2. According to Radio Killid, Taliban has claimed responsibility for the suicide attack. The explosion was the fourth major attack in the capital in five weeks. In an earlier incident, a car bomb exploded on September 8, 2009 near the ISAF entrance to the military airport in Kabul in an attack on a NATO convoy, killing three persons.

3. As has been conveyed from time to time and fresh inputs received suggest infiltration of SVBIED/BBIED/militants in the Kabul city to carry out more attacks on high value targets, NATO/ISAF, ANA/ANP convoys, Ministries of Interior and Defence, government establishments, hotel Kabul Serena, Intercontinental hotel, Massoud square roads leading to Kabul International Airport, Jalalabad & Bagram continue to remain vulnerable.

4. In view of the above incident, all Indian nationals residing in Afghanistan are requested to maintain special vigilance during coming weeks. Keeping a safe distance from International Military/ANA/ANP convoys, government establishments and Public Transport Buses is also 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.

**(M. M. Singh)
Counsellor (PA)**

All Indian in Afghanistan (through Email)