

Terrorist Attack Profile

Suicide attack in Char Rahi Zanbaq- Wazir Akbar Khan – Kabul, Afghanistan

CURRENT AS OF: 17 January, 2009

INCIDENT:

Suicide attack in Char Rahi Zanbaq- Wazir Akbar Khan

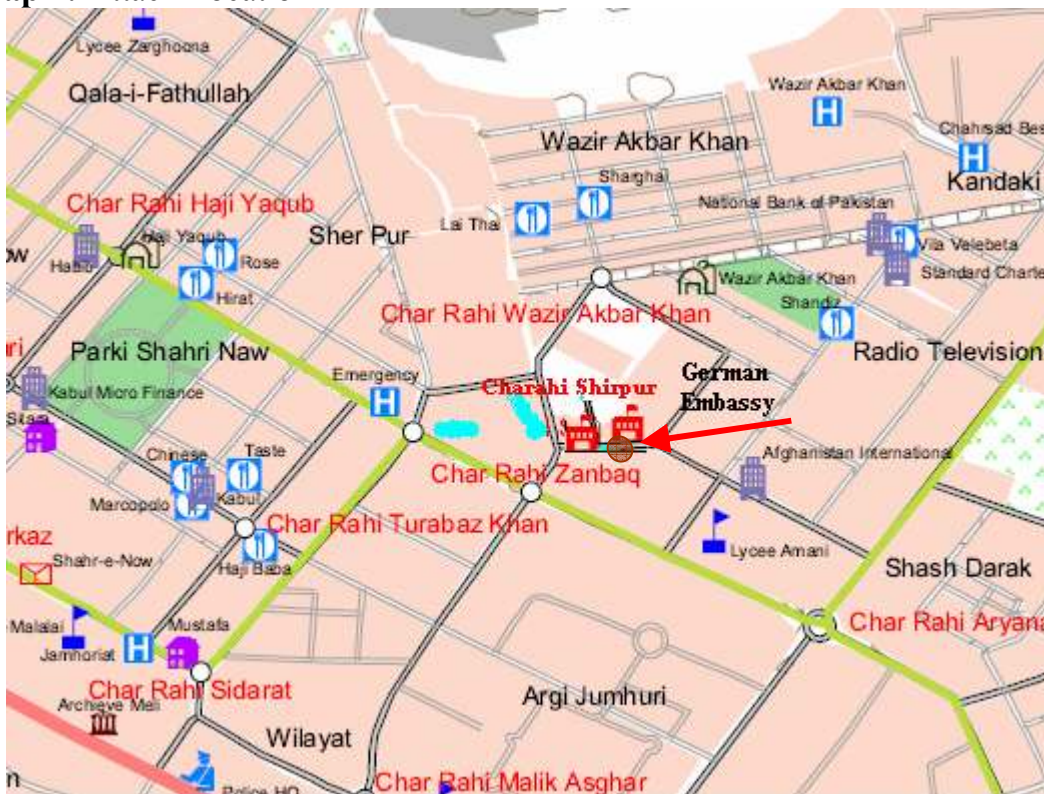
DATE and TIME:

17 January 2009 at approximately 9: 47 AM

LOCATION:

Char Rahi Zanbaq- Wazir Akbar Khan – Kabul

Map 1: Attack Location



Source: AIMS



PERPETRATED BY:

The Taliban immediately claimed responsibility for the suicide attack. A spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, said that Shams-ur-Rahman, a Taliban member carried out the suicide attack. Zabiullah Mujahid warned that more suicide attacks will take place in the future; he stated that, “We will carry out more attacks against NATO, ISAF and Afghan forces.”

TARGET:

According to eyewitness Mr. Hashmatullah, the target might have been American soldiers who were escorting a fuel tanker to camp Eager, where the fuel would have been off-loaded. The attack took place in front of the German Embassy and Camp Eager. However, the Taliban spokesman said, the target was the German diplomats. He further stated that eight foreigners were injured or killed in the attack.

TACTICS:

The bomber used a Toyota Corolla in the suicide operation. The bomber’s car crashed into an American patrol vehicle that was guarding the fuel tanker. The explosion led to the destruction of a sewage tanker and several other vehicles which were stationed just outside the entrance to the German embassy.

ATTACK DETAILS:

The corolla rammed into the American patrol vehicle causing a huge explosion that led to the tanker and several other vehicles in the vicinity being destroyed. Six vehicles were fully destroyed. Bodies and blood stains were strewn on the road. American soldiers were seen carrying down one injured soldier from a guard post that is positioned above the cement barricades that overlooks the road and the embassy. Immediately after the explosion ambulances rushed to the scene to take away the injured personal to the hospitals. According to Zahir Azemy, the spokesperson to Ministry of Defense, 2 civilians were killed and 23 were injured. He did not elaborate on the foreign casualty figures. Local media reported that there were 14 foreign casualties including 2 fatalities.

EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS:

According to an eyewitness- Mr. Hashmatullah- During the time of the explosion he was driving his car on the same route. He heard a large explosion and shortly lost control of his car. When the vehicle came to stop he observed that there were 10 bodies lying in the wreckage. He also observed around 20 civilians who were injured. He also mentioned that two



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of the foreign troops were killed and another four were injured. According to the same eyewitness, the possible target might have been the American troops who were escorting the tanker carrying petrol.

VISUAL AIDS:





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Photo by: CAPS

ATTACK ANALYSIS:

TARGET ASSESSMENT:

The target may have been the American troops who were escorting the fuel tanker. This is evident from the fact that the bomber directly targeted the American troops. The nature of the attack reveals that there has been considerable amount of prior planning ahead of the incident.

ATTACK INVESTIGATION:

PRE-INCIDENT:

People were going to offices and some of them were busy working in their shops around the area. The attack took place while the fuel was being off-loaded.

INCIDENT:

Local Afghan civilians and international troops suffered due to the incident.

POST-INCIDENT:

The ANP, ANA, NDS and international troops cordoned off the road for civilians' use and the injured personnel were removed from the site. Later the security forces were seen carrying out the preliminary investigations in the incident. It is important to note that the area where the attack took place is considered the heart of Kabul and many of the embassies and foreign compounds are located there. (almost like the Green Zone) One could make a claim that an attack in such an area shows that an underground cell which has planned everything including the reconnaissance could be located within the vicinity of the attack. Especially, since there are many check-post from all different directions coming to area.

CASE FINDING:

The Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed claimed responsibility for the attack. He stated that their intended target was the German diplomats. He further stated that eight foreigners were injured and/ or killed in their targeted attack.

ATTACK RESPONSE:

GOVERNMENT:

Kabul police Chief General Ayub Salangi at the attack location addressing the media stated that the explosion caused damage to six vehicles; he refused to elaborate on the casualties. Mr. Ali Shah Paktiawal - the Head of the Criminal Investigation Department of Kabul police- did not make any comments.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY:

The international community has yet to comment on the suicide attack.

PRIVATE BUSINESS:

The shopkeepers and locals around the area condemn this attack.

SOCIETY:

The suicide attack occurred on a main road near the German Embassy and Camp Eager. There was damage caused to shops in the vicinity.

SECURITY IMPLICATION:

While insecurity in Afghanistan is rising in the past few months, Kabul has been relatively safe expect for the occasional suicide attacks. On 27 November 2008, a suicide attack took place near the American Embassy and the main target was the foreigners which resulted in killing four and injuring 15 civilians. The last attack was on 30 November 2008, a suicide attack on the French convoy was carried out on Darlaman Road. As a result of which four civilians were injured. Last month two rockets were fired into Charahi Qamber area in Kabul.

This was the first in 2009 targeting foreigners.