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## FOUR BOMBS ROCK LONDON

LONDON—At least 33 people have been killed in four explosions on London's transport system this morning in what are believed to be terrorist attacks.

There have been three confirmed explosions in London Underground trains and stations and a further one onboard a bus. A count at 15:22 BST confirmed by London ambulance services states more than 1,000 injured, 45 seriously. The first reports were of an explosion at 08:49 BST (UTC+1) on the Metropolitan line between Liverpool Street station and Aldgate East. Explosions also occurred on a train between King's Cross and Russell Square and an-

other at Edgware Road. The explosions are currently being reported, and described by Prime Minister Tony Blair, as being terrorist attacks. Traces of explosives were found at two of the sites according to the BBC.

Scotland Yard has confirmed one explosion onboard a double decker red London bus travelling south outside the British Medical Association on Tavistock Square. Police cannot confirm whether this bomb was intended for another train and accidentally detonated aboard the bus instead.

Pundits are speculating the attack has been co-ordinated by al-Qaeda. Dr. Shane Brighton, an intelligence expert at

the Royal United Services Institute for Defence, claims that, "If what we are looking at is a simultaneous bombing — and it does look like that — it would very certainly fit the classic al Qaeda methodology."

### OFFICIAL RESPONSES

A joint statement of the G8 leaders was made by Tony Blair at a press conference, also attended by US President George Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin. See our related story for more details.

Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom and many other world leaders have also issued statements.

## REPORTS, UNCERTAINTY AROUND AS DEATH TOLL MOUNTS

The first reports that came in were from London's Liverpool Street station talking of an explosion on the Metropolitan Underground line and the station being evacuated. Later a BBC and a Wikinews reporter spoke of a bus being destroyed by a bomb blast in Tavistock Square outside the British Medical Association offices. At first, police would only confirm two people were dead but have since confirmed 33 fatalities. TfL reports the bus was a number 30 from Hackney to Marble Arch.

The initial reports of explosions were believed to have been the result of power surges. This was because the first indication of any disturbance was the opening of circuit breakers in the Underground, which was observed in the control room. This is usually due to a power surge, but in this case the actual cause was damage to the track circuits by bombs.

At approximately 10:50 BST reports were made that there was an additional, as yet unidentified explosion along Houndsditch, near Liverpool Street Station. Police were also warning pedestrians at Russell Square that a series of controlled explosions would be made shortly.

BBC News 24 has reported additional unspecified incidents at Brighton, Luton, and Swindon. These stations have been closed and there has been no official confirmation of the nature of the incidents, if any actually occurred.

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair told London Live that there have been "events" at Edgware Road, Kings Cross, Liverpool Street, Russell Square, Aldgate East and Moorgate.

At 11:30 BST (UTC+1) St. Mary's Hospital released a statement that they have admitted 4 critical, 8 severe and several minor injuries. Injuries are limb damage, cuts, burns, head injuries and chest problems.

According to the Associated Press, a senior Israeli official said Scotland Yard told Israel minutes before the explosions that it had received warnings of possible terror attacks. Sky News says this has been denied by Scotland Yard. Sir Ian during his interview with Sky confirmed the absence of any specific intelligence.

German news magazine Der Spiegel (as well as unconfirmed information from CIA) has reported that a letter from an organization calling itself "Secret organization - Al Qaeda in Europe" has appeared, claiming responsibility for the bombings. See related story for more details.

A police spokeswoman has confirmed two deaths at Aldgate station. Television and radio reports are now saying there have been four separate incidents with up to 150 casualties, speculating that the blasts may be related to terrorist activity.

The Associated Press is reporting that a US law enforcement official has put

the toll at 40 killed.

Emergency Services press conference at around 15:15 BST (UTC+1) confirms at least 33 fatalities, not including those resulting from the incident on the number 30 bus.

The exact causes of the explosions are still unknown. Initially, it was thought that it was some technical fault. However, the police later suspected terrorists attacks. Police are still unsure if the bombs were simply left in packages or whether there were some sort of suicide attacks.

### Timeline of Attacks

**At 8:52 a.m.** a bomb exploded on an Metropolitan Line Underground train 91 metres/100 yards into the tunnel from Liverpool Street. Seven are known to be dead.

**At 8:56 a.m.** a bomb detonated on a Piccadilly Line train between King's Cross and Russell Square. Twenty-one are dead.

**At 9:17 a.m.** a bomb exploded on a Circle Line between Edgware Road Station and Paddington. The blast blew a hole in a wall, and another train hit debris from the debris from it. A third train is also involved. Five are known to be dead.

**At 9:47 a.m.** a No. 30 bus (Hackney - Marble Arch) blew up at the junction between Tavistock Square and Woburn Place. Fatalities unknown, but eyewitnesses say at least two people have died there.