

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

INDIA: DELHI EXPLOSIONS

31 October 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

A series of explosions rocked Delhi on Saturday 29 October in the evening, killing at least 61 people and leaving hundreds injured, some of them critically. As many as 40 people were killed in an explosion in Sarojini Nagar market and 21 others have reportedly been killed in Paharganj. The third blast was in Govindpuri, which detonated in a DTC bus but did not prove fatal to anyone. The fourth bomb, planted at Chandini Chowk, was detected and diffused by police intelligence. Most of those injured or killed in the explosions were ordinary people out shopping for the festival season. At least 20 people have been detained as suspects.

The police still have very few concrete leads in their investigation into the serial blasts that rocked Delhi on Saturday, but they believe a single group is responsible for all three blasts. The police say that the explosives planted in the Govindpuri DTC bus were triggered by a timing device. Efforts are being made to try and locate the bus passenger who first noticed the bag containing the bomb and informed the driver and conductor. Both the home ministry and the Delhi police say it is too early to be certain who was behind the attacks, but believe that militant group Lashkar-e-Toiba was probably responsible.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Delhi state branch of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) came into action within the first hour of the blast on 29 October. The volunteers recovered 15 bodies from the debris and transported them to the Lady Hardinge Hospital.

In total 100 volunteers became active within a few hours after the disaster. Once the Lady Hardinge hospital was facing space constraints the patients were then moved to RML hospital.

In the second blast at Sarojini Nagar, six people were taken to the nearby hospital in the Red Cross ambulance. After the third blast, nine patients were transported to a nearby hospital.

As a matter of preparedness, the Delhi state branch has formed medical teams which are on alert at each of the Red Cross hospitals and clinics in the city, including the busy areas of the town. Each medical unit consists of an ambulance, two doctors and two paramedical staff members.

These teams are on alert 24 hours and will be working around the clock until 3 November.

The government has taken all the necessary measures, including search and rescue, and helpline services, and all intelligence agencies have become active in investigating the key people responsible for the attacks.

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