

# 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

## PAKISTAN: ISLAMABAD BOMB BLAST

27 May 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 Information Bulletin (no. 1/2005) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.**

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### The Situation

At least 18 people have been killed by a bomb explosion at a religious shrine in the Pakistan capital, Islamabad. Initial estimates are of at least 40 people being injured; however, this figure is likely to increase.

The bomb went off at 11:20am local time (6:20am GMT) while there were hundreds of people present celebrating the end of a religious festival.

The shrine is near government buildings and the diplomatic enclave containing several embassies/high commissions.

Police say it is a suspected suicide attack and follows recent bomb blasts over the past week in Waziristan and Balochistan.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Pakistan Red Crescent responded to a call from the Islamabad Capital Police, despatching seven ambulances immediately to the bomb site. An eighth ambulance was already on the site having been deployed during the religious festival over the previous five days.

The Pakistan Red Crescent's information officer, who was present at the site, said the national society's ambulances were among the first to arrive. Large agitated crowds delayed ambulance access to the site, but Pakistan Red Crescent vehicles were allowed through.

Two Pakistan Red Crescent doctors accompanied by first aid staff were also already present at the site and attended to the injured. Other Pakistan Red Crescent staff assisted with the removal of bodies. Apart from on-site medical assistance, the ambulances are being utilized to ferry the wounded and the dead to hospitals.

In 2004 the Pakistan Red Crescent, using its own resources, established a fully equipped ambulance service for the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. These ambulances (11 in total) are coordinated through a central control room in the national headquarters in Islamabad.

It is planned to establish Pakistan Red Crescent ambulance services in Peshawar and Karachi as outlined in the Annual Appeal 05AA049 ([http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA049.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA049.pdf)). However, to date this has not received donor support and this activity could be shelved for 2005.

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