

Special Client Advisory – July 17 2009

International SOS and Control Risks respond to Jakarta bombings

Summary of Situation

Two near-simultaneous explosions occurred on 17 July at the Ritz-Carlton and JW Marriott hotels in the Mega Kuningan area of the capital Jakarta. At least nine people, including one foreigner, had been killed and at least 40 others, including 14 foreigners, injured. Reports indicate that the explosions occurred at restaurants located on the lower levels of the hotels. Also, the Plaza Mutiara building adjacent to the Marriott was impacted by the explosion. The police have sealed off areas in the vicinity of both hotels. Details about the attacks are still emerging.

A third explosion occurred in the Muara Angke area in the north of the capital Jakarta. Reports indicate that a car bomb was detonated at a toll gate in the area, killing at least two people. The authorities have deployed security personnel to the site.

Comment and Analysis

The attacks, which occurred in quick succession, appear to have targeted both the Ritz-Carlton and Marriott hotels. While the Ritz-Carlton reported damage to its exterior, media reports indicate that Plaza Mutiara building next to the Marriott seems to have borne the impact. Heightened security measures will remain in place as security personnel and emergency crew undertake rescue efforts. Travel disruption should be expected on major roads in the area, as the police enforce diversions and road closures. The death toll and number of injuries is likely to rise.

Although there has been no claim of responsibility, the co-ordinated nature of the attacks suggests the likely involvement of the Indonesian militant Islamist group Jemaah Islamiah (JI). Although counter-terrorist operations have degraded the operational capabilities of JI, it maintains the capability to launch attacks. Potential targets include both official and 'soft' targets, such as entertainment venues, tourist sites, churches and other areas frequented by foreigners.

The attacks come after a period of relative calm in Indonesia. JI bombed the Australian embassy in Jakarta in September 2004 while in 2003, 12 people were killed and 150 were injured in a JI bombing, notably targeting the Marriott Hotel. The 2003 bombing reflected a clear intent to cause mass casualties against a Western target in an area of the capital with one of the highest levels of security.

Our Response

A regional crisis management team involving International SOS alarm centres in Jakarta, Philadelphia and Singapore, was set up immediately following news of the bombings. The role of the crisis management team is to develop a plan of action to ensure that all victims receive appropriate medical care and assistance including evacuation of the seriously injured patients as well as to advise travelers arriving into Jakarta on the situation on the ground. This team comprises medical, security, aviation, logistical and communications specialists.

Three medical teams have been deployed from International SOS' Jakarta Alarm Centre to three local hospitals where the injured have been taken to identify and assist members. The International SOS' clinic in Kuningan has treated two patients who suffered minor injuries from the bomb blasts.

The joint operating unit of International SOS and Control Risks also deployed a security specialist to Jakarta to provide on-the-ground security support and assistance to our members.

Member Travel Advice

- Avoid the area of the explosions.
- Non-essential travel to Jakarta should be deferred for the next 24-48 hours until the situation becomes clearer.
- Essential travel to other areas of Jakarta may proceed.
- Personnel safely inside buildings in the vicinity should remain where they are until otherwise instructed by the security forces.
- Account for personnel in-country.

We encourage all security/comprehensive members to log on to [International SOS Members' Website](#) regularly for the latest situation updates and advice.

If you have not signed up to receive security email alerts, please do so now at the [International SOS Members' Website](#). You will need your membership number to log in. Please contact your Account Manager if you need assistance.

Members who require assistance should contact the International SOS 24-hour Alarm Centre in Singapore at +65 6338 7800.

We are monitoring the situation closely and will keep you informed of significant changes to the situation.