

Group Claims Responsibility for New Delhi Blasts

The New York Times

October 30, 2005

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NEW DELHI, [India](#), Oct. 30 -A day after a synchronized string of bombs tore through packed holiday-season markets in the Indian capital, killing 59 people, a little-known militant outfit in the disputed Kashmir province took responsibility today, and the police asserted that investigations remained inconclusive.

As the city's shopping centers crept back to a cautious normalcy, a man called the Kashmir News Service, to say that his group, which he identified as Inquilabi, or Revolutionary, had carried out the bombings.

The Joint Commissioner of Delhi Police, Karnail Singh, told reporters that the lead was being investigated. The police official gave a slightly different name of the organization: Islamic Inquilabi Mahaz, or Islamic Revolutionary Group, and said it was linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, the [Pakistan](#)-based militant organization responsible for several attacks in India.

Ajai Sahni, a security analyst and director of the Delhi-based Institute for Conflict Management, said Lashkar-e-Taiba, when it first surfaced in Kashmir in 1993, operated under the name Islamic Inquilabi Mahaz. "They are the same group," he said. "They are what we could call a front organization."

No one has yet been arrested in connection to the blasts, the police official told reporters. Nothing about the materials used nor the pattern of the attacks suggests the hand of a particular organization. The police announced a reward of \$2,200 for any information leading to the arrests of the bombers.

India faces a host of armed insurgencies, including Maoists in its forests, ethnic guerrillas in the northeast, Sikh separatists, and Islamist guerrillas fighting for Kashmir. India accuses Pakistan, its neighbor and rival, of supporting the Kashmir militants.

The blasts came just hours before India and Pakistan agreed to open the de-facto frontier that divides their respective swaths of Kashmir. The accord is designed to allow divided Kashmiri families to visit one another and convey relief across five points along the so-called Line of Control, starting on Nov. 7. .

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India blamed terrorists for the bombings, but neither he nor any among his cabinet would name who was behind the attacks. The blasts injured more than 200 people on the eve of the country's most important Hindu and Muslim holidays. For New Delhi, as across much of North India, this weekend is akin to the

weekend before Christmas in the [United States](#) and represents one of the busiest shopping periods of the year.

The first bomb struck at Paharganj Market in the city center shortly after 5:30 p.m.; a second struck Sarojini Nagar Market in south Delhi a few minutes later; the last struck shortly thereafter near a bus in an industrial area called Govindpuri, also in the city's south.

Today, shopping centers opened their doors, though traffic was considerably lighter than normal and business was far more sluggish than normal on the weekend before Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, and Id al-Fitr, marking the close of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The police reinforced their ranks at city shopping centers and hectored people to be mindful of unaccompanied bags. Shopkeepers rued the sudden slump in business. Shoppers were undeterred but vigilant.

"We do not want to give the impression that we are scared," said Mohan Kukereja, the Sarojini Nagar market association president. "We want to have some normalcy."

"They want to terrorize us," said Rattan Gupta, a software engineer, who came shopping with his wife and 4-year-old son. "They want more casualties. But we cannot stop living."

As a precaution, the Guptas had kept their car at home.

Yusuf Jameel contributed reporting from Srinagar for this article and Hari Kumar contributed reporting from New Delhi.