

# Militant group kills 24, wounds 30 in Pakistan cemetery

*Officials say the attack on the Shiite Muslims was motivated by religious reasons*

By Munir Ahmed  
The Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan — As he prepared to hand out copies of the Koran during a memorial service in a Shiite Muslim cemetery Sunday, prayer leader Allama Aktar Abbas Najvi paused to offer a warning. "We must be very cautious," he said. "We are not safe here in Pakistan."

Moments later, he proved prescient: Two gunmen on a motorcycle roared up to the service in Lahore and turned their rifles on the mourners, killing 24 people and injuring more than 30 in an

attack officials fear was religiously motivated.

People scrambled for cover. Children hid behind the grave-stones, some beneath colorful chadors, or shrouds, draped over the stone markers. Screams and pleas for the gunmen to stop filled the air.

"We were in the middle of our prayers," said a trembling Imam Hassan, 52. "Everyone started screaming and trying to find a place to hide, but they just kept on firing."

Most of Pakistan's 140 million people are Sunni Muslims who hold no grudge against their Shiite brethren. Small, well-armed militant groups have emerged, however, and the two sides routinely clash.

No one has claimed responsi-

bility for the attack, but police suspect the gunmen belonged to the Sunni group known as the Sipah-e-Sahabah, or the Friends of the Guardians of the Prophet.

"There is no doubt that Sipah-e-Sahabah was involved in the firing and there will definitely be repercussions," said Hasan Turabi, a leader of the Tehrik-e-Jafria, or Movement for Shiite Muslim Law in Pakistan. Contacted by The Associated Press by telephone, he would not elaborate.

The massacre came as nearly 100 Shiite Muslim worshipers were kneeling at the white marble grave of their former leader and teacher, Mohammed Hussein Rizwan, during a ceremony marking his death two years ago from natural causes. As the gunmen sprayed bullets over the crowd,

two accomplices kept watch from a jeep.

After the killers fled, survivors hurried from the cemetery, stopping cars, motorized rickshaws and motorcyclists, pleading with them to rush the wounded to the nearest hospital.

Loudspeakers at Lahore's Mayo Hospital blared out a call for blood donations. Dozens of people, both Sunni and Shiite Muslims, lined up to help.

Police, who took about an hour to get to the graveyard, cordoned off the area. The Punjab government called an emergency meeting of law enforcement officials and ordered a judicial inquiry.

"We will find these terrorists, whoever they are," Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif said.

Authorities, fearing retaliatory

attacks, deployed police at mosques throughout the country, and plainclothes officers were dispatched to many congested shopping districts in Lahore.

In the capital, Islamabad, police set up roadblocks, where they stopped vehicles and searched for weapons. Paramilitary rangers were deployed in the old city of Karachi, where there is a large Shiite Muslim population.

At sunset, a mob converged near the scene of the attack, pelted businesses with stones and set fire to a bank and a car as demonstrators vowed revenge for the killings. There were no injuries.

Turabi said the Punjab administration had failed the minority Shiite community.

"They are not doing their duty to protect us," he said.

# Burial certificate proves Diana rests at family's ancestral home

*Rumors have been circulating that Princess Diana is actually buried in the Spencer crypt*

The Associated Press

PETERBOROUGH, England — A bishop released Princess Diana's burial certificate Sunday to quash rumors that her body is in the Spencer church vault, not on an island at Althorp, the family's ancestral home.

Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, decided to bury her on the estate, instead of in the crypt, to save the nearby village from being

overrun by sightseers. He put tickets to view her island grave on sale last week, at about \$15.60 apiece, and got a huge response from around the world.

But in pubs, at parties and on street corners in Northamptonshire, where Althorp is located, rumors persist that Diana is buried in the Spencer crypt in the church of St. Mary the Virgin at Great Brington.

Paul Needham, a spokesman for the Bishop of Peterborough, said the rumors probably started because the crypt was opened after Diana's death Aug. 31 in a

Paris car crash. Her brother later decided to bury her inside the estate.

"A few days after the funeral, the vault was resealed," Needham said. "What I think happened is that people came into the church, saw the fresh cement, put two and two together and made about 840."

The certificate, dated September 12, 1997, is signed by the Rev. Victor Christian de Roubaix Malan, described as the person in charge of the burial, a private ceremony after Diana's funeral at Westminster Abbey.

The document states that "on the 6th day

of September 1997 Diana, Princess of Wales, aged 36, was buried in an extra-parochial place, namely at Althorp Park in the County of Northamptonshire in the grave previously consecrated by the Bishop of Peterborough on the Island in the Oval Lake."

When tickets to view Diana's island grave went on sale Jan. 5, callers inundated 24-hour phone lines. The latest figure showed 122,000 tickets of 152,000 available had been sold by Saturday. The proceeds will go to a charitable memorial fund.

# Iraq criticizes U.N. weapons inspection team for being 'unbalanced'

*An Iraqi news agency claims there are too many Americans and Britons on the team*

By Wael Faleh  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq criticized a U.N. weapons inspection team that arrived Sunday in Baghdad, saying it was dominated by Americans and Britons.

The team, headed by Scott Ritter, an American whom Iraq repeatedly has accused of being an American spy, includes nine

Americans, five Britons, a Russian and an Australian, the official Iraqi News Agency said.

The agency quoted an unnamed "official Iraqi source" as saying that Iraq has complained to the United Nations that the teams are "not balanced."

"We have said that the Americans and the British make up most of the teams ... and the participants in the present team are solid evidence for what we have been saying," the source added.

Alan Dacey, a spokesman for the U.N. Special Commission that oversees the inspections, con-

firmed that a weapons inspection team had arrived Sunday but said he would not disclose the nationalities of the team members.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein ordered American inspectors out of the country on Nov. 13 on grounds they were spies. The United Nations then withdrew all of its inspectors in protest.

They were allowed to return a week later under a Russian-brokered deal.

The United Nations has said that trade sanctions imposed on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait will not be lifted until its

weapons of mass destruction are destroyed.

Iraq insists it has eliminated those weapons, but the U.N. Special Commission has accused the Iraqi regime of hiding information and materials related to arms production.

Ritter, the American inspector, has led anti-concealment missions in the past. Iraq has responded by labeling him "a troublemaker," especially for his efforts to get into sites it has declared off-limits. These include presidential palaces and other so-called "sensitive sites."

The Iraqi News Agency said that "as long as the issue of balancing the teams is not respected, Iraq stresses its serious reservations on the statements and conclusions of the Special Commission."

Also Sunday, Hussam Mohammed Amin, head of Iraq's National Monitoring Committee, said that U.N. inspectors had carried out 607 inspections since they returned Nov. 21.

The figures do not match those kept by the U.N. Special Commission, which accounts for inspections differently.

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