



COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING

THREAT ADVISORY

This message contains information about the current threat to the United Kingdom from terrorism. Recipients are asked to consider if action may be required in relation to the contents of this message

National Counter Terrorism Protective Security Threat Advisory Message — 10th November 2017

UK TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS

INTERNATIONAL in the UK

SEVERE
AN ATTACK IS HIGHLY LIKELY

For more information
please see:
<http://www.mi5.gov.uk>

NORTHERN IRISH RELATED in Britain

SUBSTANTIAL
AN ATTACK IS A STRONG
POSSIBILITY

THREAT UPDATE FOR RETAILERS AND SHOPPING CENTRES

LEGAL ADVICE

This Threat Advisory Notice may contain information sourced from publications by terrorist organisations. Please do not search, access or download source material of this nature as such activity will alert you to government authorities and may constitute an offence under The Terrorism Act 2000.

SOURCE

The information in this document relates to content contained within open source information; namely Turkish media.

The content relating this Threat Advisory Notice focuses on hostile reconnaissance, retail processes for goods being returned at shopping centres and/or other retail outlets, and suspect packages.

INFORMATION

On 28 October 2017 Turkish National Police (TNP) prevented an attempt to conduct a mass-casualty IED and suicide attack at a shopping centre in Istanbul's Bayrampasa district.

The methodology the attackers planned to deploy indicates the intended target of the attack, timed for a Turkish general public.

During a police operation the suspects, posing as two couples, were observed meeting up in the shopping centre car park.

A car in the shopping centre car park associated with the suspects was found to contain a quantity of IEDs. Bomb disposal teams found further IEDs attached to a motorcycle.

ACT

ACTION
COUNTERS
TERRORISM



INFORMATION

IEDs were also found inside four microwave ovens which had been bought from the shopping centre but later returned as 'faulty'. Also recovered were four suicide vests, indicating the suspects intended to conclude their action with suicide attacks; and two firearms, suggesting the suicide stage of the attack may have included a 'marauding' element.

Police established that the group was planning a complex three-stage attack, starting with the detonation of the IEDs in the microwave ovens; followed by the detonation of the VBIEDS to target those fleeing the first stage; and a suicide attack stage in which the four planned to detonate their suicide vests to target rescuers.

Subsequent examination of CCTV footage revealed that the car had previously been used by the suspects for what are believed to have been reconnaissance visits to the shopping centre. The suspects were seen to have had children with them, presumably to bolster their family cover.

ADVICE

NaCTSO provide crowded places sector specific advice covering all aspects of security planning and advice available here:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crowded-places-guidance>

An increase in transactions leading up to the business period can create the perfect cover for crime including fraud and other nefarious incidents. Implementing a good housekeeping regime improves the ambience of your premises and reduces the opportunity for theft and the placing of suspicious items or bags and helps deal with false alarms and hoaxes.

- ◆ Avoid the use of litter bins in critical, sensitive or vulnerable areas such as near glazing, support structures etc. Make sure these areas are monitored by your CCTV operators. Make sure there is additional and prompt cleaning in these areas.
- ◆ Use of clear bags for waste disposal makes it easier to conduct an initial examination for suspicious items.
- ◆ Review the use and security of any compactors, wheelie bins and metal bins used to store rubbish within service areas, goods entrances and near areas where crowds congregate.
- ◆ Keep public, communal and external areas (such as exits, entrances, lavatories, service corridors and yards) clean, tidy and well lit.
- ◆ Keep the fixtures, fittings and furniture in such areas to a minimum – ensuring there is little opportunity to hide devices.
- ◆ Lock unoccupied offices, rooms and store cupboards.

ADVICE

- ◆ Ensure staff check any returned goods to verify contents and any returned items are stored away from public areas and other critical locations.
- ◆ Ensure that everything has a place and that they are returned.
- ◆ Place tamper-proof plastic seals on maintenance hatches.
- ◆ Ensure that all staff are trained in bomb threat handling procedures, or at least have ready access to instructions, and know where these are kept.
- ◆ Ensure that first-aid kits and fire extinguishers are checked regularly and ensure that they have not been interfered with and used items replaced. (Are sufficient staff trained in first aid for a terrorist type attack?).
- ◆ Ensure street vendors, cycle racks, lockers and bins do not impact upon evacuation routes, assembly areas, exits or entrances.
- ◆ Ensure cycle racks and lockers are placed away from crowded areas. Monitor with CCTV if necessary.

When dealing with a suspicious item the HOT protocol may be used to inform your judgement:

Is it Hidden?

⇒ Has the item been deliberately concealed or is it obviously hidden from view?

Obviously suspicious?

⇒ Does it have wires, circuit boards, batteries, tape, liquids or putty-like substances visible?

⇒ Do you think the item poses an immediate threat to life?

Is the item Typical of what you would expect to find in this location?

⇒ Most lost property is found in locations where people congregate. Ask if anyone has left the item.

⇒ If the item is assessed to be unattended rather than suspicious, examine further before applying lost property procedures.

When dealing with suspicious items:

⇒ Do not touch

⇒ Try and identify an owner in the immediate area.

⇒ If you still think it's suspicious, don't feel embarrassed or think somebody else will report it.

⇒ Report it to a member of staff, security, or if they are not available dial 999 (do not use your mobile phone in the immediate vicinity).

⇒ Move away to a safe distance - Even for a small item such as a briefcase move at least 100m away from the item starting from the centre and moving out.