



Office of Intelligence and Analysis



SNAPSHOT

29 March 2010: Moscow Metro Bombings

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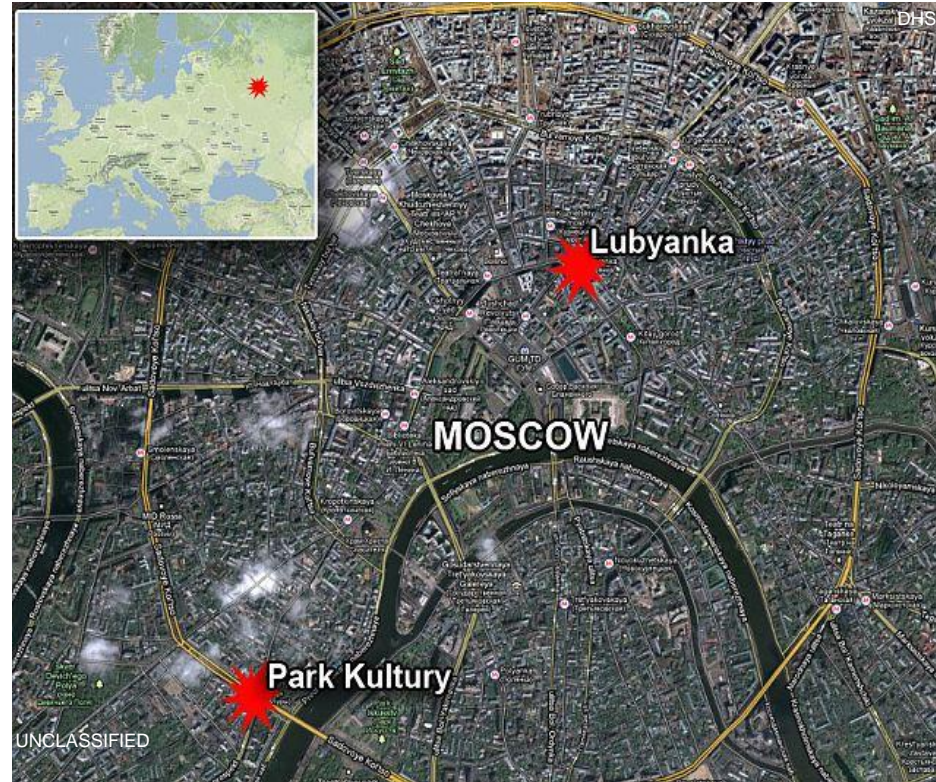
Moscow Metro Bombings

(U) Moscow, Russia – Two female suicide bombers detonated explosives in Moscow's subway system.

(U) Facts:

- (U) Two unidentified female suicide bombers detonated explosives in Moscow's subway system
- (U) Explosions occurred on 29 March at Lubyanka and Park Kultury train stations in downtown Moscow at approximately 0800 and 0845 local Moscow time (2400 & 0045 EDT)
- (U) Preliminary reports indicate 37 killed, 102 injured
- (U) Russian media reports that an unexploded suicide belt was discovered at Park Kultury Station

(U) No group has claimed responsibility at this time. However, Doku Umarov, a self-proclaimed Chechen militant leader, posted an Internet video warning of potential attacks in Russia in February.



(U//FOUO) Homeland Implications: Currently there is no information indicating a credible threat to the Homeland from Chechen separatists.



Incident Observations

(U) Tactics & Techniques:

- (U) Attackers: Two female suicide bombers (one per train).
- (U) Device: Explosive belts packed with plastic explosives: one per bomber; may have contained hexogen (RDX) as well as chipped iron rods and screws; believed to have been set off on the trains as the trains' doors opened.
- (U) Time: At approximately 0800 & 0845 Moscow time (2400 & 0045 EDT), during peak morning rush-hour commute.
- (U) Locations:
 - 0800 - Lubyanka Station: Station is located underneath the building that houses the main offices of the Federal Security Service (FSB), the KGB's main successor agency.
 - 0845 - Park Kultury Station: Unknown nearby facilities.



Chechen Separatist History

- (U) **Leader:** The Chechen separatists have had numerous turnovers in leadership over the years. The most prominent and active separatist group is the Caucasus Emirate led by Doku Khamatovich Umarov.
- (U) **Main Objectives:** After the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, Chechen separatists launched a coordinated campaign for independence, which resulted in two wars and an ongoing insurgency in the Chechen region.
- (U) **TTP / MO:** The Chechen separatists use hostage-taking tactics (2004 Beslan school siege); remote detonated IEDs (summer 1999 bombings of an arcade and an apartment building in Moscow); and suicide operatives, to include females, as seen in this most recent subway attack.
- (U) The Chechens are a predominantly Sunni Muslim ethnic minority group located in Russia's Caucasus region.
- (U) According to Russian State statistics, as of January 1, 2010, the Chechen population was 1,267,740. It is not currently known how many Chechens participate in resistance activities.

Caucasus Emirate flag



UNCLASSIFIED

Doku Khamatovich Umarov



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(U//FOUO) There has not yet been a claim of responsibility for the attacks. There is no information that Chechen separatist groups operate or have an active presence in the Homeland.



Implications & Preventive Actions

(U//FOUO) Suicide bombings continue to be a preferred terrorist tactic because the bomber controls the location, timing, and method of delivery, and requires no escape route. Many facilities and areas accessible to the public are inherently vulnerable to suicide bombing attacks and the terrorist's latitude in determining and adjusting the target and timing of an attack up to the point of detonation further complicates countermeasures. These factors indicate the importance of disciplined security measures and alertness by security professionals to potential threats from the full range of gender and age groups.

(U//FOUO) Despite the lack of a reliable, predictable profile of a suicide terrorist, security and law enforcement officials and first responders should be aware of terrorists' use of both male and female suicide operatives, and be alert to behavioral patterns that such bombers have demonstrated in previous attacks.

(U//FOUO) Male and female suicide bombers may portray many of the same indicative behaviors, to include:

- (U) Appearance of being nervous, may seem preoccupied or have a blank stare.
- (U) Focused, intent, and vigilant, may result in lack of response to verbal questions or commands.
- (U) Awkward attempts to blend in to surroundings; behavior may seem odd or overtly out of place.
- (U) Avoidance of authority figures, law enforcement, or security; if security is present, the suicide bomber tries to be inconspicuous.
- (U) Praying fervently to him/her self.
- (U) Behavior may be consistent with that of a person without any future, such as presenting a one-way ticket, or being unconcerned about receiving change for a purchase.
- (U) Profuse sweating that is incompatible with current weather conditions.



Downtown Moscow Metro Bombing Incidents June 11, 1996 to present

**(U) 29 Mar. 2010 -
Lubyanka
Station**

**(U) 29 Mar. 2010 -
Park Kultury Station**

(U) Aug. 31, 2004 – Female suicide bomber kills 10 people outside Rizhskaya station. Little-known Islamic group supporting Chechen rebels claims responsibility.

(U) Feb. 5, 2001 – Explosives placed under a bench on the Belorusskaya station platform detonate, wounding 15 people.

(U) Jan 1, 1998 – Homemade bomb explodes in vestibule at Tret'yakovskaya station, wounding 3 people.

(U) Feb. 6, 2004 – Suicide bomber from the North Caucasus kills more than 40 people and wounds more than 100 during rush hour between Avtozavodskaya and Paveletskaya stations.

(U) June 11, 1996 – Homemade bomb explodes on train in tunnel between Tuls'kaya and Nagatinskaya stations, killing 4 people.



Royal Demolition Explosive (RDX)

(U) Royal Demolition Explosive (RDX): Cyclotrimethylenetrinitramine, C₃H₆N₆O₆ (RDX), also known as cyclonite or hexogen, is second in strength to nitroglycerin among common explosive substances.

(U) RDX is an explosive widely used in military and industrial applications. RDX has both military and civilian applications. As a military explosive, RDX can be used alone as a base charge for detonators or mixed with other explosives. Common military uses of RDX have been as an ingredient in plastic-bonded explosives, or plastic explosives. Civilian applications of RDX include use in fireworks and in demolition blocks.

(U) RDX is stable in storage; however, it becomes unstable when exposed to extreme heat, impact, or electrostatic discharge.

(U) RDX is a white, crystalline solid or colorless crystal.

(U) RDX was widely used during World War II, often in explosive mixtures with TNT.



Sources

Sources:

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