

## 11 killed and 3 injured in Quetta barbaric incident

Saturday, 30 July 2011 00:00

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Quetta: At least 11 people, including a woman, were killed and three others were injured in a sectarian terrorist attack near a bus stop at Spiny Road on Saturday morning. Unidentified attackers gunned down innocent people in Quetta, capital of Pakistan's restive Balochistan province.

The victims were in a van which was attacked by gunmen riding motorbikes and who managed to flee after the shooting, Balochistan police chief Rao Ameen Hashim told the media. "Eleven passengers died and three were injured," he said.

Hashim said police carried out raids in different parts of the city and rounded up more than 200 suspects who were being interrogated. He said large police contingents had been deployed in sensitive areas of the provincial capital.

The tragic murder of the members belonging to the Shia community sparked riots in Quetta as the protestors vandalized vehicles, motorbikes and shops besides blocking roads by burning tyres.

As the news of the killings spread around, a large number of people including the bereaved families reached the hospital and strongly protested against the barbaric incident.

An angry mob blocked Brewery Road and Sabzal Road by torching tyres and pelted nearby vehicles with stones. Unidentified people set two vehicles, one rickshaw, four motorbikes and some bicycles on fire and also tried to set ablaze a hotel at Brewery Road which was saved by the law enforcement agencies. The violent protesters damaged some shops while sporadic gun firing was heard at Hazara town.

The riots forced the shopkeepers at main business areas of the city to shut their shops and the people preferred to stay at homes.

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A large number of activists of Hazara Democratic Party staged a demonstration outside the Quetta Press Club and chanted slogans against the government and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits.

The Saturday's attack came a day after seven people were killed by unidentified gunmen at Sariab Road who were preparing to leave for Iran.

Tahaffuz-e-Azadari Council has announced 40-day mourning over the killings while Hazara Democratic Party had given a shutter down call in Quetta on Sunday.

Banned outfit Lashkar-e-Jhangvi claimed responsibility for the murder of 11 people in Quetta. Lashkar-i-Jhangvi's spokesman Ali Sher Haideri has claimed responsibility for the killings. He made calls to the newspaper offices, TV channels and offices of the news agencies and claimed responsibility, saying the victims were Shias and the banned outfit had killed them.

According to police, a private Suzuki van, loaded with passengers, was proceeding to a bazaar from Hazara Town when unidentified armed men opened indiscriminate firing at it, killing most of the passengers on the spot.

The assailants believed to be from a banned sectarian outfit were waiting for the attack and when the van reached close to their position, these armed men opened indiscriminate firing on it, leaving no chance for the victims to escape. Resultantly, seven persons died on the spot and seven others received serious bullet wounds.

"A rickshaw driver was also among the dead," police said, adding; "Yet another victim was a passerby."

The attackers fled the scene after firing and killing scores of innocent people. It is to be mentioned here that the deceased were on their way to earn their daily livelihood. They were all poor people and daily wage earners.

Earlier on Friday, seven persons, including four Shia Muslims from northern Punjab, were also gunned down, as assailants belonging to the banned sectarian outfit opened fire on them deep inside an overcrowded bus terminal, where buses for Iran are operated for Shia devotees. All in all, around 40 Shia Muslims were gunned down in Quetta during the last two months in four separate attacks, all by the banned outfit.

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Local Correspondent and News agencies