

13 Nov 2019 Medan Attack

On 13 November, a 24-year-old suicide bomber blew himself up in a carpark at a police station in Indonesia's city of Medan in North Sumatra. The bomber was a student, born in Medan. He was seen entering the police headquarters during a security check and the Indonesian authorities said he had sneaked in when a large crowd was entering the compound. It was reported that the crowd of people were applying for clearance letters from the police - a requirement to join the civil service which is currently open for admission.

The attacker was wearing a jacket and carrying a big backpack when he blew himself up in a carpark near the building where certificates of clearance were being processed. Six people were injured.

This attack serves as a crucial reminder that it is important to stay vigilant and to be prepared at all times.

Step up vigilance in workplaces

During the time of the attack, a large crowd was entering the police compound. Crowded places can give rise to opportunities for terrorists to execute an attack. Implementing extra precautionary measures at crowded areas at your workplaces can prevent an attack.

- Identify customer service areas, public facing places in your workplace or any office events involving management of crowds.
- Ensure robust security screening by deploying sufficient security personnel to manage and screen visitors to the workplace.
- Always maintain sufficient security cameras, systems such as CCTV etc to deal with a possible crowd surge. Threats can be detected by protective measures such as CCTV systems, intrusion detection systems, and bag checks.

Keep a look out for suspicious persons, articles and vehicles

The attacker was cleared after physical checks on the first occasion but ignored orders to remove his jacket when he returned a second time.

Know how to identify suspicious persons:

- Wearing bulky, oversized attire that may conceal hidden objects such as weapons, explosives
- Having electrical wires sticking out beneath their clothing
- Loitering for an extended period of time or being uncooperative with security instructions or when asked for his purpose of visit.
- Placing object or parcel in a crowded area and departing immediately.

To find out how to identify suspicious articles and vehicles, please refer to the [MOM SGSecure@Workplaces](http://MOMSGSecure@Workplaces) website.

With the holiday season and school holidays coming, MFA has advised Singaporeans to take necessary precautions including being prepared to deal with accidents, natural disasters or terrorist attacks. Individuals are advised to stay connected with family and friends when overseas. Building cohesiveness in the workplace can help staff stay connected when overseas. Employers and co-workers will be more likely to watch out for one another in times of emergencies.

More on MFA's advisory [here](#).