



# TERROR TRACKER

*Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre*



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान



## **BLAST IN KERALA'S** JEHOVAH WITNESSES MEET

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## NEW PHASE OF KHALISTAN **REFERENDUM ANNOUNCED**

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# BLASTS KILL 3 IN KERALA'S JEHOVAH WITNESSES MEET

FORMER MEMBER OF THE CHRISTIAN GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY



On 29 October 2023, 45 people were wounded and 3 dead in a series of three blasts using an IED at the Zamra International Convention Centre in Kalamassery (Kerala) where hundreds of people had congregated for the Jehovah's Witnesses meeting. This was an annual meeting that was supposed to last three days, concluding on the day the blast occurred.

The Jehovah's Witness sect of Christianity, which rejects the traditional holy trinity of God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, is known for its belief in Jehovah, the God of Israel, as the only true god and for their door-to-door evangelical practices. Nor do they celebrate festivals like Easter and Christmas, convinced they have non-Christian origins and reject modern evolutionary theories.

Additional Director of General of Police Law and Order, MR Ajith Kumar, announced in a press conference that an individual named Dominic Martin from Kochi, a member of the 'same group' claimed that he carried out the blasts and the matter is being investigated and interrogations being conducted thoroughly.

Martin had surrendered at a police station in Thrissur District, 65 kilometres away from the blast site. Dominic said that he was a member of Jehovah's Witnesses and said that he decided because he found the teachings of the organisation "seditious". A person claiming to be a member of the religious group denied Dominic of being a member of the group.

Kerala's Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, scheduled an all-party meeting in the aftermath of the blasts and termed the tragic situation 'very unfortunate.' – [NDTV](#), [Business Today](#), [Live Mint](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Deccan Herald](#)

## HAMAS LEADER KHALED MASHAL ADDRESSES KERALA RALLY VIRTUALLY



KHALED MASHAL

On 27 October 2023, Khaled Mashaal, leader and former head of Hamas, virtually addressed a pro-Palestine rally organised by Jamaat-e-Islami's youth wing, Solidarity Youth Movement (SYM), in Malappuram, Kerala. At the moment, several pro-Palestine rallies are being organised in the state.

Mashaal, in his remarks, addressed the gathering by discussing the conflict between Israel and Hamas and its impact on Palestinians as he sees it.

He said, "We should be making all efforts for the Palestine land." He also spoke of Palestinian efforts to "liberate Al-Alqsa Mosque from Zionist acts." – [The Hindu](#), [The Indian Express](#), [Live Mint](#)

## TWO GANGSTERS LINKED TO KHALISTAN CRIME NEXUS NABBED



**HARJEET SINGH AND HARRY  
RAJPURA**

**O**n 7 October 2023, Delhi Police's Special Cell announced that it arrested Harjeet Singh alias Harry Maud and Harry Rajpura alias Bada Harry, members of the Canada-based Arsha Dalla-Sukha Duneke gang. Singh and Rajpura had been on the run for the past two years and carried out criminal activities – target killings, extortions, cross-border smuggling of drugs and firearms, and firing for gain, that spanned several states in India.

They were wanted by the Punjab Police and the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Moreover, they are believed to be the most trusted operatives of Khalistani gangster-turned-terrorists Arsha Dalla, Sukha Duneke, Harvinder Singh alias Rinda, and Lakhbir Singh alias Landa. – [NDTV](#)

# NEW PHASE OF KHALISTAN REFERENDUMS ANNOUNCED

**SFJ LEADER CALLS FOR ARREST OF INDIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA**



**Gurupatwant Singh Pannun blurting out an incendiary slogan alongside other members of the so-called Sikh for Justice (SFJ) group in Canada.**

**O**n 29 October 2023, after the second phase of the Khalistan referendum was concluded in Canada, the separatist outfit Sikhs for Justice (SJF) announced \$100,000 for the arrest of India's High Commissioner to Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma.

After the voting in the referendum was concluded, one of the resolutions passed called for the High Commissioner's arrest, and the outfit decided to invoke the 'Citizen's Arrest Clause' within the Canadian Law, under which it has allocated the budget of \$100,000. The previous phase had concluded soon after concerns regarding anti-India activities being carried out by Khalistani extremists were conveyed to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the G20 Summit held in New Delhi in September 2023.

Moving forward, SJF announced that it would organise referendums in Montreal, Edmonton, Calgary, and Abbotsford next year, and voting centres where they will be held will be dedicated to Khalistani leaders, including Bhupinder Singh Kooner and Ravinder Singh Pannu.

Furthermore, in a recent video, Gurupatwant Singh Pannun, SJF's leader, issued a message saying people from Punjab to Palestine will react and turn violent.

He had also threatened to disrupt the India-Pakistan World Cup match in Ahmedabad, after which an FIR was filed against him.

This chargesheet was filed following NIA's seizure of his assets in Amritsar and Chandigarh. – [IANS](#), [Swarajya](#)

# GUNMAN GOES ON RAMPAGE KILLING 18 IN US TOWN

DEADLIEST OF THE 36 MASS SHOOTINGS IN THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR



All 18 victims of the Lewiston mass shooting (above) shared by Maine Department of Public Safety

On 25 October 2023, in the city of Lewiston (Maine, United States), Robert Card, a 40-year-old Army reservist, allegedly carried out the country’s 36<sup>th</sup> mass killing and deadliest shooting this year, killing at least 18 and wounding 13 others at Just-In-Time Recreation Bowling Alley and Schemengees Bar and Grille. At least 3 others reportedly remain in critical condition.

The mass killings had a devastating impact on a state that has one of the country’s lowest homicide rates. Following a two-day manhunt, the suspect was found dead due to an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Leading up to the deadly shootings, Robert Card allegedly purchased several weapons, and at least one firearm was used to carry out the attacks. Furthermore, a couple of weeks before, a Sheriff based in Maine had issued an alert after the suspect had threatened to attack the Army Reserve Center in Saco, Maine, and family members pointed out that he had been behaving erratically, claiming he heard strange voices in his head. It has been discovered that the shooter had firearms instructor training.

The authorities revealed that Card’s family members had been the first to identify the suspect after his photograph was released to the public for more information. President Joe Biden called on Republicans to pass gun safety legislation and stressed that Lewiston and the rest of the country ‘deserve nothing less.’ – [ABC News](#), [AP News](#), [CNBC](#), [The New York Times](#)

## ISIS RADICAL STABS HIS TEACHER TO DEATH IN FRANCE



MOHAMMED MOGOUCHKOV

On 13 October 2023, Mohammed Mogouchkov, a man of Chechen origin, allegedly killed his former teacher and wounded at least 2 others in a knife attack at a high school in the town of Arras. He was arrested at the scene of the crime.

Alleged to have expressed support for ISIS a day before the attack, the suspect is said to have been under ‘active monitoring’ by the country’s Directorate of Internal Security DGSI. President Macron called the attack ‘barbaric Islamist terrorism,’ and raised France’s alert status to an ‘emergency’ level.

The President urged unity among French citizens and added that “the choice is made not to give in to terror, not to let anything divide us.” — [India Today](#)

## DELHI POLICE NABS ISIS TERRORISTS, FOILS TERROR PLOT

On 2 October 2023, the Delhi Police arrested three ISIS terrorists, in addition to the notorious Mohammad Shahnawaz, who was part of the terrorist outfit's Pune module and was on the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) 'most-wanted' list. According to some reports, the Pune module of ISIS had been involved in making IEDs and in conducting trial blasts in Pune's jungles.

After Shahnawaz escaped from Pune Police's custody, the NIA released his pictures and offered Rs. 3 lakhs as reward money for receiving information on his whereabouts. Shahnawaz was eventually found hiding in Delhi.

It is reported that Shahnawaz, along with the other terrorists nabbed in Delhi, had received instructions from their foreign handlers to carry out terrorist attacks across northern states of India. The names of the ISIS terrorists, in addition to Mohammad Shahnawaz, arrested by Delhi police are Talha Liyakat Khan, Rizwan Abdul Haji Ali and Abdulla Faiyaz Shaikh. – [Live Mint](#)

### India, Tanzania Join Hands to Counter Terror

India and Tanzania upgraded their ties to a strategic partnership on 9 October 2023 during President Samia Suluhu Hassan's visit to India. PM Modi and her agreed to expand bilateral cooperation in areas ranging from counter-terrorism, investment, and trade to defence.

The two sides agreed to cooperate in areas such as defence industry, military training, maritime cooperation, and capacity building. Unanimously agreeing that 'terrorism is the most serious security threat to humanity,' the two sides 'decided to increase cooperation in counter-terrorism.' Maritime security, drug trafficking, and piracy were highlighted as some of the other key areas of cooperation. – [Hindustan Times](#)

### Off-Duty Cop Injured in Kashmir Terror Attack

Masroor Ahmad Wani, an off-duty cop, was critically injured in a terrorist attack near Srinagar's Eidgah Mosque on 29 October 2023 while playing cricket. He was shot in the abdomen, neck, and eye using a pistol at a close range.

The Resistance Front, a Lashkar-e-Taiba front organisation, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The J&K Police have also identified that Basit and Momin Dar are terrorists currently active in the area. – [India Today](#), [PTI News](#)

### Crypto-currency firm freezes 'terror wallets'

Tether, which issues the largest stablecoin globally, has frozen 32 virtual wallets linked to warfare and terrorism financing using cryptocurrency in Ukraine and Israel. The cumulative value of these wallets is \$873,118.34. – [CNBC](#)

### ISKP Blast kills 7 in Afghan Shia Mosque

On 13 October 2023, a Shia Mosque in the Baghlan province in Afghanistan known as the Imam Zaman Mosque, was targeted in a suicide bombing attack that killed at least 7 worshippers and left 15 injured. The blast ripped through the mosque as hundreds of people gathered to pray.

The next day, the Shi'a Scholars' Council of Afghanistan demanded that perpetrators of the attack should be found and brought to justice.

Islamic State in Khorasan Province has claimed responsibility for this attack in a Telegram post. – [Reuters](#), [RFE/RL](#)

### Masood Azhar Aide killed in North Waziristan

Dawood Malik, the founder of the terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Jabbar and considered to be the right-hand of Masood Azhar, was killed by unidentified shooters in a targeted attack at a private clinic in North Waziristan on 20 October 2023.

Malik is also believed to have been involved in the operational activities of other terrorist groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Jhangvi. – [India TV](#)

### Two Swedes killed in Jihadi Attack

On 16 October 2023, Abdsalem Lassoued, a Tunisian-origin man illegally residing in Brussels, claiming to be inspired by ISIS, killed two Swedes and injured one more person on the night of the Belgium-Sweden Euro 2024 qualifier match. Subsequently, Brussels was placed on its highest terror alert. The perpetrator was shot dead by authorities the next day. – [euronews](#), [Sky News](#)