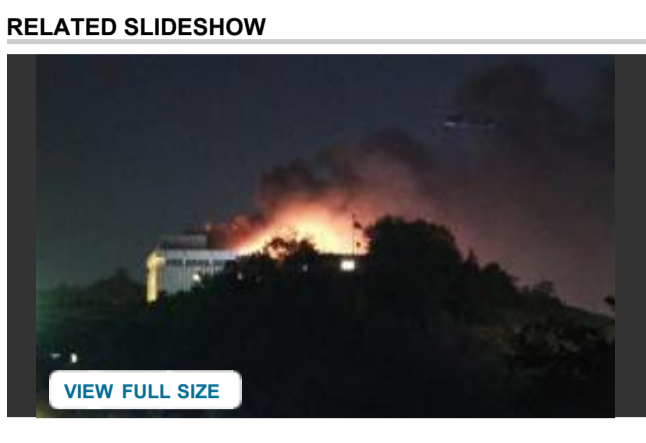


TD Waterhouse Active Trader Platform. Trade up to Canada's #1 discount brokerage. TRADE FOR AS LOW AS \$7 Take a test drive

ARTICLE COMMENTS (0) SLIDESHOW VIDEO

FOREX OPEN A PRACTICE ACCOUNT NOW Secure Trading Safe Environment Excellent Service EUR/USD 1.41 BID 14 EUR/USD 1.41 ASK 17



Full Focus Editor's choice A selection of our top photos from the past 24 hours. Full Article

Follow Reuters Facebook Twitter RSS YouTube

- MOST POPULAR READ 1 UPDATE 1-Los Alamos scurries to protect nuclear lab from fire 2 Judge blocks testimony from Casey Anthony fiancé 3 Mel Gibson reaches divorce deal with longtime wife 4 Special Report: A little house of secrets on the Great Plains 5 BofA near \$8.5 billion settlement on securities

- DISCUSSED 221 Biden deficit-cut talks hit impasse: Rep. Cantor 139 CBO sees government benefits swamping U.S. economy 114 Fragile economy pushed Obama to tap oil reserves

- WATCHED A Tokyo-Paris flight in under three hours on the horizon Hefner's revenge; Ryan Reynolds stops traffic China's luxury fast train debuts

REUTERS SUMMITS JAPAN INVESTMENT GET THE EXCLUSIVES

# At least 10 killed in attack on landmark hotel in Kabul

Recommend 4 recommendations. Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.



Kabul hotel ablaze after Taliban suicide attack (01:16)

By Hamid Shalizi KABUL | Tue Jun 28, 2011 11:02pm EDT

(Reuters) - At least 10 Afghan civilians were killed when suicide bombers and heavily armed Taliban insurgents attacked a hotel frequented by Westerners in the Afghan capital late on Tuesday, Afghan officials said.

Helicopters from the NATO-led force killed the last three insurgents in a final rooftop battle, a coalition spokesman said. Smoke rose from the roof of the Intercontinental hotel as the sun rose over Kabul after a battle lasting several hours.

"At least 10 civilians, including hotel staff, were killed when six suicide bombers attacked the Intercontinental," Mohammad Zahir, the head of the Kabul police crime unit, told Reuters.

Sediq Sediqqi, a spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, said at least six Afghans had been killed.

The attack came the night before the start of a conference about the gradual transition of civil and military responsibility from foreign forces to Afghans. The hotel was not one of the venues to be used by the conference or its delegates, an Afghan government official said.

It was also a week after President Barack Obama announced plans for the initial withdrawal of 10,000 U.S. troops from Afghanistan by the end of this year, with another 23,000 to leave by the end of 2012.

Reuters witnesses heard at least seven blasts over the course of more than two hours, with bursts of gunfire heard during the late-night attack on the Intercontinental, one of two main hotels used by foreigners and Afghan government officials in Kabul.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said there had been gunfire coming from inside the hotel.

"Two ISAF helicopters have ... engaged three individuals on the roof," coalition spokesman Major Tim James said. "The indications are that the three individuals on the roof have been killed."

One Reuters witness said smoke could be seen rising from the hotel, although no fires were visible. Afghan security forces surrounded the hotel and firefighters arrived after the last of the insurgents were killed.

Sediqqi said six or seven insurgents had been involved in the attack, one of the worst in the Afghan capital in months. "All have been killed," he said.

Zahir also said three police officers had been wounded as they cleared the hotel on the city's western outskirts.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said several fighters from the Islamist group had attacked the hotel.

Mujahid, who spoke to Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location, said heavy casualties had been inflicted.

The Taliban often exaggerate the number of casualties in attacks against Western and Afghan government targets.

### FLARES, TRACER ROUNDS

One blast was heard at the start of the attack and then three more at least an hour later, one of the Reuters witnesses said. Bursts of gunfire were heard over the same period and flares lit up the sky over the hotel.

Reuters television footage showed police firing tracer rounds into the air as other officers moved through the hotel. Power was cut in the hotel and in surrounding areas after the attack.

The hotel, built on a hillside in western Kabul with heavy fortifications all around it, is often used for conferences and by Westerners visiting the city.

Police threw up roadblocks immediately after the blast, stopping people from approaching the area.

Violence has flared across Afghanistan since the Taliban announced the start of a spring offensive at the beginning of May, although Kabul has been relatively quiet.

The last major attack on a major Kabul hotel used by foreigners was in January 2008, when several Taliban gunmen killed six people in a commando-style raid on the nearby Serena hotel.

The increase in violence comes as NATO-led forces prepare to hand security responsibility to Afghans in seven areas from next month at the start of a gradual transition process that will end with all foreign troops leaving Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

The two-day conference to discuss the transition process was due to begin in a government building in the center of the city on Wednesday.

Violence across Afghanistan in 2010 was already at its worst levels since the Taliban were ousted by U.S.-backed Afghan forces in late 2001.

(Additional reporting by Omar Sobhani, Alistair Scrutton and Akram Walizada; Writing by Paul Tait; Editing by Sugita Katyay)

WORLD AFGHANISTAN

Recommend 4 recommendations. Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.

Tweet this Link this Share this Digg this Email Reprints

After reading this article, people also read:

- BofA near \$8.5 billion settlement on securities Jun 28, 2011 Lagarde wins IMF top job, presses Greece on crisis Jun 28, 2011 Prospects improve Greek austerity plan will pass Jun 28, 2011 Mel Gibson reaches divorce deal with longtime wife Jun 28, 2011 Special Report: A little house of secrets on the Great Plains Jun 28, 2011

### Videos you may like:

- Kabul hotel ablaze after Taliban suicide attack Tue, Jun 28 2011 World reactions Afghan troop plan Thu, Jun 23 2011 Afghan suicide attack on foreign convoy kills at least Sun, Jun 19 2011

### Sponsored links

- Top Ranked Global MBA Ranked #3 in the World by Financial Times. Designed for Top Executives. www.TRiUMemba.com Asian Female For Love Feel alone? Meet sweet chinese girl& share romance with her! Join free. www.Chnllove.asia Cell Phones on Sale! Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint and more! Same Phones - Less Money. www.wirefly.com

Add your comment [Text area] [Post to Facebook] [Cancel] [Post Comment]

We welcome comments that advance the story through relevant opinion, anecdotes, links and data. If you see a comment that you believe is irrelevant or inappropriate, you can flag it to our editors by using the report abuse links. Views expressed in the comments do not represent those of Reuters. For more information on our comment policy, see http://blogs.reuters.com/fulldisclosure/2010/09/27/toward-a-more-thoughtful-conversation-on-stories/

### Comments (0)

Be the first to comment on reuters.com. Add yours using the box above.

### Social Stream (What's this?)

- ASHFAK BALOCH At least 10 killed in attack on landmark hotel in Kabul http://reut.rs/iFZlw1 18 Minutes Ago from Twitter Rusty Poole At least 10 killed in attack on landmark hotel in Kabul http://t.co/HjnPcdn 46 Minutes Ago from Twitter Sathesh Menon Mumbai style attack on Af Inter Continental Hotel. Hope they didn't get a Kasab! At least 10 killed in attack| Reuters http://t.co/B1euvbi 1 Hour Ago from Twitter Brenda Ruiz At least 10 killed in attack on landmark hotel in Kabul http://bit.ly/iycjW3 1 Hour Ago from Twitter Reuters KABUL ATTACK LATEST, 10 DEAD http://t.co/HnKEB51 2 Hours Ago from Twitter brunilda followback At least 10 killed in attack on landmark hotel in Kabul http://t.co/ldZ408Z 2 Hours Ago from Twitter athena At least 10 killed in attack on landmark hotel in Kabul http://t.co/bb9GC7k 2 Hours Ago from Twitter

See all comments » Join the conversation: [Social media icons]

ADS BY GOOGLE What's This? Canada Money Transfers Unbeatable Rates on International Money Transfers With Canadian Forex www.CanadianForex.ca Maclean's Magazine Great Deal - Try Maclean for Just \$15. Only 75 Cents per Issue! www.Macleans.ca



Learn How to Invest: Gold  
Gold Delivered to Your Door Since 1960. Get Your Free Investor Kit!  
Goldline.com

## MORE FROM REUTERS

### BofA near \$8.5 billion settlement on securities

CHARLOTTE, N.C./NEW YORK (Reuters) - Bank of America Corp is close to a deal to pay \$8.5 billion to settle claims from a group of powerful investors that lost money on mortgage-backed securities, a person familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

#### HAPPENING NOW



#### Google debuts new social service

The tech giant, frustrated by a string of failed attempts to crack social networking, is taking another stab at fending off

Facebook and other hot social sites with a new service called Google Plus. [Full Article](#)

[Twitter founders plan to revive Obvious](#)

[MediaFile: The top secret Google demo](#)

[TECHNOLOGY](#)

#### TOP VIDEOS



#### Greek protesters, police clash

[New IMF chief's first TV interview](#)

[Microsoft's new Office in the cloud](#)

[» More Top Videos](#)

#### MARKETS

##### US Indices

**DOW**  
145.13  
12,188.69  
+1.21%

**NASDAQ**  
41.03  
2,729.31  
+1.53%

**S&P 500**  
16.57  
1,296.67  
+1.29%

**TR US INDEX**  
1.57  
118.71  
+1.34%

**Int'l Indices**  
**NIKKEI**  
9,756.94

**HANG SENG**  
22,131.87

[» Markets](#)

#### TOP NEWS

[Lagarde wins IMF top job, presses Greece on crisis](#) | [VIDEO](#)

[At least 10 killed in attack on landmark hotel in Kabul](#) | [VIDEO](#)

[Obama defends record in campaign-style Iowa stop](#)

[Prospects improve Greek austerity plan will pass](#) | [VIDEO](#)

[SEC to propose conduct rules for swap dealers](#)

[Exclusive: U.S., Swiss at impasse on tax dodge accord](#)

[Decline in home prices ebbs, consumers gloomy](#) | [VIDEO](#)

[» More Top News](#)

#### ANALYSIS & OPINION

[Secrecy Inc in the USA](#)  
**Claudia Parsons**



[Why Lagarde got the IMF job now](#)  
**Felix Salmon**



[Don't call Google+ the Facebook killer](#)  
**John Abell**



[» More Analysis & Opinion](#)

#### TODAY IN PICTURES



#### Editor's Choice

A selection of our best photos from the past 24 hours.

[View Slideshow](#)



© Copyright 2011 Thomson Reuters

[Editorial Editions](#)

#### REUTERS

- Contact Us
- Advertise With Us
- Help
- Journalism Handbook
- Archive
- Site Index
- Video Index
- Reader Feedback
- [Reuters on Facebook](#)

- Mobile
- Newsletters
- RSS
- Podcasts
- Widgets
- Your View
- Analyst Research

#### THOMSON REUTERS

- Copyright
- Disclaimer
- Privacy
- Professional Products
- Professional Products Support
- Financial Products
- About Thomson Reuters
- Careers

#### ONLINE PRODUCTS

- Acquisitions Monthly
- Buyouts
- Venture Capital Journal
- International Financing Review
- Project Finance International
- PEHub.com
- PE Week
- FindLaw
- Super Lawyers Attorney Rating Service

Thomson Reuters is the world's largest international multimedia news agency, providing investing news, world news, business news, technology news, headline news, small business news, news alerts, personal finance, stock market, and mutual funds information available on Reuters.com, video, mobile, and interactive television platforms. Thomson Reuters journalists are subject to an [Editorial Handbook](#) which requires fair presentation and disclosure of relevant interests.

NYSE and AMEX quotes delayed by at least 20 minutes. Nasdaq delayed by at least 15 minutes. For a complete list of exchanges and delays, [please click here](#).