

At least 207 die in Sri Lanka blasts

NOTE: At the time of upload, the death toll was 310.

23rd April, 2019



At least 207 people have been killed and 450 hurt in separate explosions in Sri Lanka. The government said suicide bombers were responsible for the bombings. The blasts took place in churches and hotels across the country on Sunday.

Three churches were attacked as people were attending religious services for Easter, one of the most important occasions in the Christian calendar. Three luxury hotels were also targeted. Sri Lanka's government has imposed a curfew on the country. It asked people to be alert and report anything suspicious. The government has also blocked social media websites to prevent the spread of misinformation. The government said police have arrested seven suspects.

World leaders have condemned the attacks. Pope Francis said: "I pray for the injured and all those who are suffering as a result of this dramatic event." The leader of the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka told the BBC: "It's a very difficult and a very sad situation for all of us because we never expected such a thing to happen, especially on Easter Sunday." US President Donald Trump tweeted: "The United States offers heartfelt condolences to the great people of Sri Lanka. We stand ready to help." The president of Turkey called the blasts "an assault on all of humanity". Sri Lanka's president said he is worried that the violence could create more instability in his country and in its economy.

Sources: bbc.com / cbsnews.com / dw.com

Writing

There will always be terrorism in the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

hurt / explosions / suicide bombers / religious services / Christian / calendar / suspect / world leader / dramatic / sad / Easter / condolences / president / humanity / economy

True / False

- a) The government said it does not know who is responsible for the blasts. T / F
- b) There is currently a curfew in Sri Lanka. T / F
- c) Sri Lanka's government blocked social media sites. T / F
- d) The article said the police have arrested seven suspects. T / F
- e) The article said world leaders condoned the attacks. T / F
- f) Sri Lanka's Catholic Church was expecting such an attack. T / F
- g) The article said the UN boss called the blasts an assault on humanity. T / F
- h) Sri Lanka's president is worried the attacks will affect the economy. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. hurt | a. believed |
| 2. attending | b. watchful |
| 3. alert | c. stop |
| 4. spread | d. criticized |
| 5. prevent | e. concerned |
| 6. condemned | f. growth |
| 7. sad | g. sympathy |
| 8. expected | h. injured |
| 9. condolences | i. sorrowful |
| 10. worried | j. going to |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you pray for?
- c) Would the world change if we all prayed for peace?
- d) What do you know about Easter?
- e) What did your country's leader say about the attacks?
- f) When will terrorism stop?
- g) What is your biggest worry about terrorism?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a terrorism expert?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The government said suicide | a. of misinformation |
| 2. attending religious | b. instability in his country |
| 3. Sri Lanka's government has imposed | c. the attacks |
| 4. prevent the spread | d. a result |
| 5. police have arrested | e. bombers were responsible |
| 6. World leaders have condemned | f. a thing to happen |
| 7. suffering as | g. services |
| 8. we never expected such | h. condolences |
| 9. The United States offers heartfelt | i. seven suspects |
| 10. the violence could create more | j. a curfew |

Discussion – Student B

- Why do people become suicide bombers?
- What have you seen or read about this news?
- How can Sri Lanka prevent further attacks?
- Is there anywhere in the world that is safe from terrorism?
- What can religious leaders do to stop terrorism?
- What can governments do to stop terrorism?
- What advice do you have for the people of Sri Lanka?
- What should happen to the people who did this?

Spelling

- hurt in separate solxsipnoe
- ecidisu bombers
- nesbsopleri for the bombings
- report anything isucuposs
- tvrenpe the spread of misinformation
- arrested seven esupscts
- World leaders have cmendeond the attacks
- a result of this daitamrc event
- a very sad itaonuits
- we never texcdeep such a thing
- an atsausl on all of humanity
- create more aistinibtyl

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. j	3. b	4. f	5. c
6. d	7. i	8. a	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Money

You think money is the best way to stop terrorism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): prayer, technology or multiculturalism.

Role B – Prayer

You think prayer is the best way to stop terrorism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): money, technology or multiculturalism.

Role C – Technology

You think technology is the best way to stop terrorism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): prayer, money or multiculturalism.

Role D – Multiculturalism

You think multiculturalism is the best way to stop terrorism. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): prayer, technology or money.

Speaking – Stop Terrorism

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to stop terrorism at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| • money | • education |
| • prayer | • new leaders |
| • technology | • multiculturalism |
| • more police | • stronger borders |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.