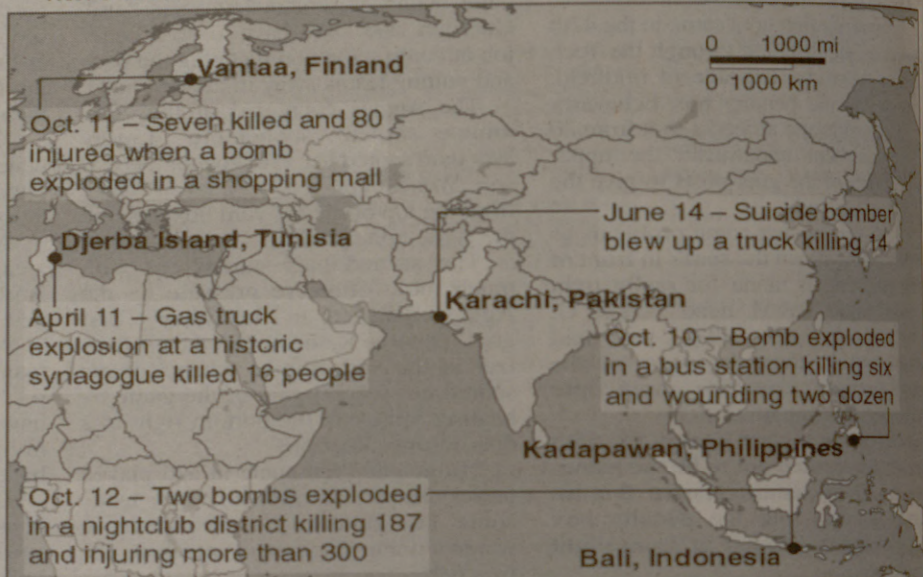


# Bombings in Bali kill 187, may mean al-Qaida has new home in Indonesia

## A look at some recent terrorist attacks

At least 187 people were killed in the worst terrorist attack in Indonesia's history Saturday. Other recent attacks around the world have also claimed civilian lives.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — Terrified tourists tried Sunday to flee this island paradise that turned into an inferno, with the death toll from a pair of bombings climbing to 187 and fears growing that al-Qaida has taken its terror campaign to the world's largest Muslim country.

Many of those killed by the two bombs that tore through a nightclub district on Bali island Saturday were Australians as well as other foreigners from Canada, Britain, Germany and Sweden. Three Americans were among the more than 300 people injured.

No one claimed responsibility for the bombings — the worst terrorist attack in Indonesia's history — but suspicion turned to al-Qaida and an affiliated group, Jemaah Islamiyah, which wants to establish a pan-Islamic state across Malaysia, Indonesia and the southern Philippines. It is accused of plotting to blow up the U.S. and other embassies in Singapore.

In Washington, President Bush condemned the attack as "a cowardly act designed to create terror and chaos" and offered U.S. help in finding the perpetrators. "The world must confront this global menace, terrorism," he said.

The attacks were on the second anniversary of the al-Qaida-linked attack against the USS Cole off Yemen that left 17 sailors dead and took place amid signs of increasing terrorist activity that had led to the closure of U.S. embassies and renewed terror alerts for Americans.

The destruction started when a small homemade bomb exploded outside Paddy's Discotheque in the maze of clubs and bars on Kuta Beach, a popular haunt with young travelers.

Shortly afterward, a huge blast from a bomb in a Toyota Kijang, a jeep-like vehicle, 30 yards down the street devastated the crowded Sari Club, a surfers' hangout.

A third, smaller bomb exploded outside the U.S. consulate. No one was injured in that blast.

The second blast ripped into the open-air bar, triggering a massive burst of flames that officials said was caused by the explosion of gas cylinders used for cooking. The explosion collapsed the roof of the flimsy structure, trapping revelers in flaming wreckage. The explosions and fire damaged about 20 buildings and devastated much of the block.

Identification of the dead was slow, since some were burned beyond recognition.

American Amos Libby, 25, felt himself lifted off his feet as he walked by the Sari Club as the bomb detonated.

"All the buildings in the vicinity just collapsed, cars overturned and debris from the buildings fell on them," he said, without giving his hometown. "I have never seen anything so horrible. There were so many people, 18 to 20 year olds, people in pieces all over the street."

New Zealander Lonny McDowell, 25, was at Paddy's when the blast blew chairs

and concrete through the bar. He said he saw a man with no legs and another with a cable stuck through his stomach.

"Who knows if this couldn't happen again? I really don't want to go back to Kuta," he said looking for his airline ticket home.

Indonesian National Police Chief Gen. Da'i Bachtiar called the it "the worst act of terror in Indonesia's history."

President Megawati Sukarnoputri flew to Bali and wept as she toured the wreckage. Asked about a possible link to al-Qaida, she said: "That will be continuously investigated so that this can be uncovered as soon as possible." She promised to cooperate with other nations to fight terror.

U.S. Ambassador Ralph Boyce told The Associated Press that it was not possible yet to pin the Bali attack on al-Qaida, but noted that increasing evidence in recent weeks has confirmed al-Qaida's presence in Indonesia and reaching out to local extremists.

"In recent weeks, we have been able to put an end to a year of speculation as to whether al-Qaida might be in Indonesia, or relocating to Indonesia, or using Indonesia as a base of operations, after the fall of Afghanistan," Boyce said.

The United States and Indonesia's neighbors have urged Jakarta for months to pass an anti-terrorism law that has been languishing in the Parliament contending there is a strong al-Qaida presence here.

Without the law, Indonesia says, security forces cannot arrest suspects without clear evidence they have committed a crime.

While its neighbors have arrested scores of militants from Jemaah Islamiyah, Jakarta

has done little and denied that it is a haven for terrorists.

"This horrible incident has only made it that much more urgent that they find some way to deal with this problem," Boyce said. "They (Indonesians) are in the middle of doing that."

The U.S. Embassy was considering scaling back staff, though no decision had been taken. Americans were warned on the Embassy Web site to consider leaving the country.

In Denpasar, Bali's main city, the airport was thronged by stunned, mostly young travelers cutting short their vacations and desperate to go home after the most terrifying night of their lives.

Crowds camped out near a McDonald's working their mobile phones to make hard-to-get airline bookings. Many spent the night on the beach, terrified after the blast to go near built-up areas.

The Australian air force set up a massive evacuation operation to bring home survivors for medical treatment. The first flight arrived Sunday in the northern city of Darwin, carrying 15 people identified as American, Australian and Canadian.

Bali is a popular tourist destination, and 20,000 Australians were estimated to be on the island. Seven of the 24 dead identified by Sunday evening were Australian.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard vowed to urgently review national security but said that staunch support for the United States in the war on terror would not be affected.

"This is a huge national tragedy for Australia and for Australians," he said.

Howard said the attack appeared to target Australian and other Western travelers.

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**  
**Largest food recall due to listeria strain**  
 PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Wampler Foods recalled all cooked deli products made since May at a suburban plant and halted production because the meat is possibly contaminated with listeria, authorities said Sunday.  
 The recall of about 27.4 million pounds of meat is the largest in USDA history. It follows an Oct. 9 recall of 295,000 pounds of turkey and chicken products at the plant in Franconia.  
 The company voluntarily expanded the recall to all cooked deli products made from May 1 through Oct. 11 and halted production Saturday at the facility about 25 miles north of Philadelphia after receiving test results of samples taken from floor drains.  
 The national recall is the largest in the history of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, inspection service spokesman Steven Cohen said.  
 The discovery was the result of a scientific investigation into the cause of illnesses, deaths and miscarriages in the Northeast from the listeria strain, the federal agency said.  
 No Wampler's products have been linked to that outbreak, said David Van Hoose, Wampler's chief executive officer.  
**Serbian elections fail due to low turnout**  
 BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Serbia's first presidential elections since Slobodan Milosevic's ouster failed Sunday because of a low voter turnout, setting the stage for a protracted power struggle in Yugoslavia's dominant republic.  
 Widespread apathy produced a voter response below the legal minimum of 50 percent, forcing the Serbs to re-launch the entire election process by Dec. 5.  
 Zoran Jancic of the State Electoral Commission said 45.5 percent of those eligible cast ballots. The low turnout was blamed on the slow pace of government reform, quarreling between pro-democracy leaders who ousted Milosevic and low living standards.  
 "There is definitely no possibility that the turnout could pass 50 percent," said Zoran Lucic, a spokesman for the independent Center for Free Elections and Democracy. "So, definitely, we did not reach the goal of these elections: We did not elect a president."

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