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2 suicide bombers killed during standoff near Spanish Embassy in Kabul

December 11, 2015



A suicide bomber detonated a vehicle packed with explosives close to the embassy of Spain in Sherpoor area of Kabul city around 6:00 pm local time.

The explosion triggered a standoff between the security forces and the assailants who took position in a compound close to the blast site.

Senior deputy interior minister for security Gen. Ayub Salangi confirmed earlier that two of the suicide bombers were shot dead by the Afghan security forces and the third was wounded.

Gen. Salangi further added that a clearing operation is underway to ensure there are no more assailants left inside the compound.

Heavy gunfire resumed around 12:00 am local time and at least five heavy blasts were heard from the incident area with the security sources saying the sounds were of Rocket Propelled Grenades launched by security forces.

Although the exact number of casualties have not been ascertained so far as the clearing operations are underway, the Prime Minister of Spain Mariano Rajoy said in a statement that a Spanish policeman was killed in an attack.

Initial reports suggested at least seven people were wounded in the attack and were shifted to the hospital but the number could be far more.

Earlier Updates:

Photos emerged online shows thick white smoke rising from the vicinity of Sherpoor area of the city soon after the heavy blast rocked the city.

Sediq Sediqi, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior (MoI) earlier confirmed that the blast took place due a Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED), citing initial reports.

A security official speaking on the condition of anonymity also confirmed that a group of three armed men are in standoff with the security forces near a guesthouse located near the Embassy of Spain.

Sherpoor is located close to Wazir Mohammad Khan area of the city and is home to a number of foreign organizations including embassies and residence of the Vice President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum.

However, Sultan Faizy, a spokesman for the Vice President, Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum, confirmed the blast in Sherpoor area of the city but said the incident area is far from the residence of Gen. Dostum.