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Al Jazeera

Suicide blast hits Pakistan police station

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A car bomb explosion has badly damaged a police station in Pakistan's volatile city of Peshawar, killing five and wounding several others, police said.

Officials said the blast early on Wednesday all but flattened the police station. Police said up to 26 people were wounded.

The bomber's target appeared to be a building belonging to the police's criminal investigation department, but Pakistani army facilities were also nearby, said Liaquat Ali Khan, a senior police official in the area.

Authorities were searching for bodies or survivors in the rubble, he said.

Residents said the explosion rattled windows throughout the city. Television footage showed police and soldiers cordoning off the affected district.

The incident occurred about 1km from the US consulate and in the same district where a car bomb exploded last week as a US consulate convoy passed by.

One man was killed and about a dozen people were wounded, including two US nationals, in that incident.

The Pakistani Taliban told the AFP news agency it was behind Wednesday's suicide attack. A string of attacks in Pakistan have followed the US raid that killed Osama bin Laden earlier this month.

The Pakistani Taliban vowed revenge and have already claimed three attacks since the May 2 raid.

In the most high-profile attack, armed men stormed a naval base in the city of Karachi late on Sunday night. At least 10 people were killed and 15 more injured in the firefight that followed.