

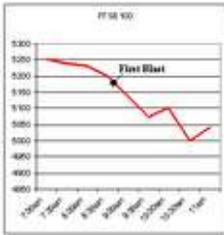
*Top Stories*

**Coordinated terrorist attack in London**



Four terrorist bombs have exploded in London. More than 30 people are dead, and hundreds injured. Al-Qaeda is said to have claimed responsibility.

**Financial markets react to London blasts**



Financial markets across the globe have lost billions in value amid uncertainty about the causes of this morning's blasts in London. The FTSE 100, a share index of

the London Stock Exchange fell 71.30 points, or about 1.36%. In the United States, the Dow Jones Industrial Average recovered after sharp losses earlier in the day, closing up 31.61 points.

**Transport and telecommunications struggle amid confusion in London**



Amid the confusion surrounding today's London blasts, officials have urged the public to avoid the city if possible to

allow emergency services to operate quicker. All rail and underground stations remain closed, although efforts are being made to reopen them. Air links are still fully open at Stansted, Heathrow, Gatwick and London City airport's.

*Wikipedia Current Events*

- Malta becomes the 12th European Union member to ratify the EU constitution and the first to do so unanimously.
- 7 July 2005 London bombings: At least four explosions are reported on the London Underground and bus system, leading to the entire transport network being shut down. (BBC) A previously unheard-of splinter group of al-Qaeda has claimed responsibility. The attacks have left at least 38 people dead and roughly 700 others injured.
- Egypt confirms its most senior envoy to Iraq, Ihab al-Sherif, has been killed after being kidnapped last week. A group related to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has claimed responsibility.
- Researchers halt a study in Africa after results indicate that circumcised men are 70% less likely to contract AIDS. The study will be presented at the Third International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment later this month. (Advocate) Meanwhile, others argue that ritual circumcision increases the risk of infection because of poor sanitary conditions.

**Two unexploded bombs found in London**

According to U.S. authorities, British police have recovered two unexploded bombs in London, ABC News is reporting. Additionally The Guardian is reporting that Vincent Cannistraro, the former head of the CIA's counter-terrorism center, has stated that "two unexploded bombs" had been recovered. However, Scotland Yard has denied finding these unexploded bombs.

These two unexploded devices were likely timed to explode simultaneously with the other four bombs that shut down London public transportation Thursday morning. One of the bombs was reportedly found on Baker Street, but their exact locations were

not immediately clear, nor were the reasons why they had not exploded.

Police have also reportedly found remnants of timing devices from the other blast sites. It is hoped that the examination of these and the unexploded devices will help officials track down the perpetrators of the attacks.

However, Scotland Yard has denied finding these unexploded bombs.

**Bomb scare closes main Edinburgh thoroughfare**



*The bus involved in the incident*

Police bomb squads this afternoon today performed two controlled explosions on board an Edinburgh double-decker bus following reports of a suspicious package on board. A block of Princes street was closed to the public from approximately 17:30, while investigations were carried out.

All local shops and homes were evacuated, and as of 20:30 remained unable to access their property while continuing evaluation of the scene was carried out. Traffic approaching the area was diverted, and motorists urged to stay away from the area unless essential.

Following earlier blasts in London the Police treated the situation very seriously, but it later emerged to be a false alarm. The blockade follows several days of planned closures for marches surrounding the Make Poverty History and G8 conference.

*This article contains first-hand journalism by a Wikinews Reporter.*

*Wikipedia Current Events*

- In the Philippines, president Gloria Arroyo asks all her cabinet to resign.
- The United States raises the terror level from code yellow to code orange for mass transit systems in response to the London bombings.

## US Homeland Security raises transit terror alert

The United States Department of Homeland Security has raised the terror alert level to "orange" for trains in reaction to the bombings of three subway trains and a bus in London.

The United States has a five-level terror alert system in which orange is the second-highest level.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff asked citizens for increased vigilance and asked cities to increase their security on their transit systems.

"Currently, the United States has no specific, credible information suggesting an imminent attack in the United States," says Chertoff.

The United States Coast Guard, part of the Department of Homeland Security, has alerted stations in high-risk areas to stand 24/7 patrols.

In Washington, Capitol Hill police announced plans to search buses, tour vans and larger vehicles traveling on the roads leading to the Capitol.

In San Francisco today, local police stood guard at Muni and BART stations. Amtrak rail lines released a statement saying that they are stepping up their security around their country-wide stations. Local sheriff dispatches have been seen patrolling even the smallest rail stations.

*This article contains first-hand journalism by a Wikinews Reporter.*

## Egypt's top envoy in Iraq confirmed killed

Al-Qaeda said in a Web statement Thursday that it has killed Egypt's top envoy in Iraq, Ihab al-Sherif. The Islamic terror group released a video showing a blindfolded al-Sherif identifying himself, but did not show his death.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak confirmed these reports, but did not say how the government had validated Al-Qaeda's claims.

Mr Sherif, 51, had been serving in Baghdad as chief envoy since early June, he was abducted on 03 July while out buying a paper, eyewitnesses said. He was not accompanied by any security at that time.

Al-Sherif had also served as deputy envoy from 1999-2003.

## Coordinated terrorist attack in London



*Evacuation of King's Cross*

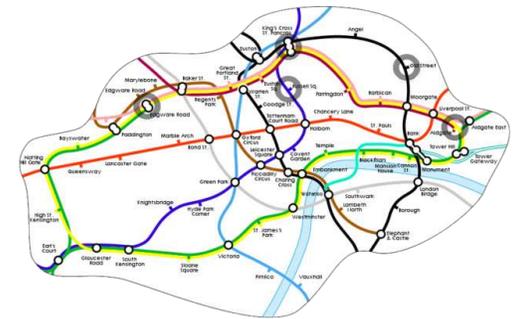
The Metropolitan Police have confirmed that at least 38 people have been killed in four explosions on London's transport system this morning, and said the overall number of wounded was as high as 700, in what are believed to be terrorist attacks. Three bombs hit London Underground trains, and a further bomb destroyed a bus in the city centre.

The first reports were of an explosion at 08:49 BST (UTC+1) on the Hammersmith & City Line between Liverpool Street station and Aldgate East. Explosions also occurred on a train between King's Cross and Russell Square and another at Edgware Road. The explosions are currently being reported, and described by Prime Minister Tony Blair, as being terrorist attacks. Traces of explosives were found at two of the sites according to the BBC.

Scotland Yard has confirmed one explosion onboard a double decker red London bus travelling south outside the British Medical Association on Tavistock Square. Police cannot confirm whether this bomb was intended for another train and accidentally detonated aboard the bus instead.

Pundits are speculating the attack was coordinated by al-Qaeda. Dr. Shane Brighton, an intelligence expert at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence, claims that, "If what we are looking at is a simultaneous bombing — and it does look like that — it

would very certainly fit the classic al Qaeda methodology." Two militant Islamist groups are reported to have claimed responsibility for the blasts.



*Stations closed or affected*



*People trapped in the underground. Photo credit: Adam Stacey.*

In a special news conference at 15:30 BST, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Brian Paddick of the Metropolitan Police confirmed 33 fatalities, 45 critical/serious injuries and approximately 300 minor injuries. In later reports, the confirmed figure has risen to 38 fatalities and approximately 700 minor injuries

At 08:51 BST a bomb exploded on an Hammersmith & City Line Underground train 91 metres/100 yards into the tunnel from Liverpool Street. Seven are known to be dead.

At 08:56 BST a bomb detonated on a Piccadilly Line train between King's Cross and Russell Square. Twenty-one are dead.

At 09:17 BST a bomb exploded on a Circle Line train between Edgware Road Station and Paddington. The blast blew a hole in a wall, and another train was hit by debris from it. A third train is also involved. Five are known to be dead.

At 09:47 BST a No. 30 bus (Hackney -

Marble Arch) blew up at the junction between Tavistock Square and Woburn Place. Police have said that there were two fatalities.

Earlier, quoting the Associated Press, Yahoo News had reported "at least 40 people were killed and more than 350 wounded". Also, the same report says "two U.S. law enforcement officials said at least 40 people were killed".



*Euston Station cordoned off*

The general hotline number for those concerned about friends or relatives is 0870 1566 344. This being run by the Metropolitan Police, in association with the British Transport Police and other Police Forces. They are stressing that those concerned should try to reach friends and relatives for news first before contacting the line to avoid swamping.

The United States Department of State has also set up a telephone hotline for US citizens with relatives or friends in the area. This number is +1 888 407-4747 (toll free in the United States).

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has set up an Emergency Hotline on 1-800-002-214 and a Web site to be used if people are unable to directly contact their family or friends in the UK.

Canadians looking for relatives have been advised to call the Canadian Foreign Affairs hotline on +1 800 387-3124, having the full name, birthdate, and passport number ready.

The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs has also set up a tollfree emergency hotline on 1800 242 548 for those in Ireland seeking news of friends and relatives in London.

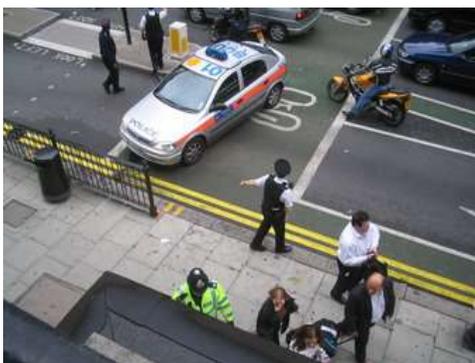
The New Zealand High Commission in London had set up an incident room to take

calls from New Zealanders in London who might want to know if any one has been reported as missing, (go through the main switchboard in London) +44 20 7930 8422. New Zealanders worried about friends and relatives in London should call 0800 432 111.

For Spaniards, the consulate hotline numbers are +34 913791625, +34 913791627, +34 913791628. Spanish consulate number in London is +44 20 7589 8989.

Germany has set up a hotline number at +49-800-2110110 for those trying to get information about friends and family members in the area. German nationals in Britain who are in need of immediate help are advised to call 020-78241457.

Please don't call these numbers or visit these Web sites if you do not have a genuine inquiry, as they are extremely congested. This will give priority to concerned family and friends.



*Russell Square cordoned off*

The first reports that came in were from London's Liverpool Street station talking of an explosion on the Metropolitan Underground line and the station being evacuated. Later a BBC and a Wikinews reporter spoke of a bus being destroyed by a bomb blast in Tavistock Square outside the British Medical Association offices. At first, police would only confirm two people were dead but have since confirmed 38 fatalities. TfL reports the bus was a number 30 from Hackney to Marble Arch.

The initial reports of explosions were believed to have been the result of power surges. This was because the first indication of any disturbance was the opening of circuit breakers in the Underground, which was observed in the control room. This is usually

due to a power surge, but in this case the actual cause was damage to the track circuits by bombs.

At approximately 10:50 BST reports were made that there was an additional, as yet unidentified explosion along Houndsditch, near Liverpool Street Station. Police were also warning pedestrians at Russell Square that a series of controlled explosions would be made shortly.

BBC News 24 has reported additional unspecified incidents at Brighton, Luton, and Swindon. These stations have been closed and there has been no official confirmation of the nature of the incidents, if any actually occurred.

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair told London Live that there have been "events" at Edgware Road, Kings Cross, Liverpool Street, Russell Square, Aldgate East and Moorgate.

At 11:30 BST (UTC+1) St. Mary's Hospital released a statement that they have admitted 4 critical, 8 severe and several minor injuries. Injuries are limb damage, cuts, burns, head injuries and chest problems.

The exact causes of the explosions are still unknown. Initially, it was thought that it was some technical fault. However, the police later suspected terrorists attacks. Police are still unsure if the bombs were simply left in packages or whether there were some sort of suicide attacks.

According to the Associated Press, a senior Israeli official said Scotland Yard told Israel minutes before the explosions that it had received warnings of possible terror attacks. Sky News says this has been denied by Scotland Yard. Sir Ian during his interview with Sky confirmed the absence of any specific intelligence.

German news magazine Der Spiegel (as well as unconfirmed information from CIA) has reported that a letter from an organization calling itself "Secret organization - Al Qaeda in Europe" has appeared, claiming responsibility for the bombings. See our related story for more details.

A broadcast interruption on MTV Thursday at 16:00 UTC said a group naming itself "Al

Jihad Network in Europe" claimed responsibility for the bombings.

A police spokeswoman has confirmed two deaths at Aldgate station. Television and radio reports are now saying there have been four separate incidents with up to 150 casualties, speculating that the blasts may be related to terrorist activity.

The Associated Press is reporting that a US law enforcement official has put the toll at 40 killed.

Emergency Services press conference at around 15:15 BST (UTC+1) confirms at least 33 fatalities, not including those resulting from the incident on the number 30 bus.

Effects of the incidents and responses from the emergency services



Russell Square

Emergency services are also attending King's Cross and Liverpool Street Station.

The entire tube network and all buses within zone 1 have been suspended and many buses are now being used to ferry the 'walking wounded' to the hospitals. The underground will be closed for an indefinite period of time, but according to Fox News Channel United States, the closure will last at least for all of today.

All emergency services are responding en masse to a "major incident" and are responding only to life-threatening emergency calls. Patients are being turned away at hospitals to free room for those injured by the attacks.

The London Congestion Charge has been suspended for the 7th and 8th of July.

The Jerusalem Post reports that the Army was dispatched to seal off the Israeli Embassy as Israel's Finance Minister is present for a conference. The army have reportedly been involved with rescues at Covent Garden. Police have denied this report (originally made on Sky news).

The police have cordoned off roads around Upper Woburn Place following an explosion on a bus in the vicinity. Traffic is at a standstill in many places in the capital. Defra's security branch are reporting that police are advising everyone in London not to use any public transport and the Cabinet Office are advising staff to remain in offices until further notice. A further email sent to all staff by Defra's permanent secretary indicates that Charing Cross and Waterloo mainline railway stations have been closed down for police searches, and that other stations could close for similar reasons later today.

As at 09.30 BST, Kings Cross Thameslink was experiencing delays and overcrowding but no serious difficulties.

Businesses have been hit by the uncertainty of the events – the FTSE had fallen almost 3.5% by 11.47UTC ([1]), but started to recover a little by early afternoon. The value of the pound has dipped, and the London crude oil price has dropped. International markets are also suffering, with falls in share indexes felt as far as South Africa. See our related story for more details.

According to Fox News Channel United States, all London schools are in lockdown and students are being kept in schools.

The Authorities are asking people in London to stay where they are, indoors if possible. Take inside any bins or bags of rubbish they have left out for collection, providing they check their contents first. Arrangements are also being made for when schools finish as schools have been asked to keep pupils safe inside until the usual school closing time.

The UK Highways Agency has stated that at the request of the police, the message "Avoid London - Turn on Radio" is being displayed on electronic motorway message signs on the M25 and other major routes approaching London.

The US Homeland Security Department asked authorities in major cities for heightened vigilance of major transportation systems. Department spokesman Roehrkasse indicated that the department had not received any indications of plans that this type of attack is planned in the United States. Later, the department raised the terror alert level to orange.

### World leaders respond to London blasts

World leaders at the G8 Meeting at Gleneagles have made statements following the bomb attacks in London today.

Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom offered this official statement following the attacks:

*The dreadful events in London this morning have deeply shocked us all. I know I speak for the whole nation in expressing my sympathy to all those affected and the relatives of the killed and injured. I have nothing but admiration for the emergency services as they go about their work.*

France's Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin made a short statement to offer moral and material support to the population of London. The "Vigipirate plan" was raised from "orange" to "red".

Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the attacks were: *Roundly condemned by the Australian government.*

*We are 100% behind the British government and 100% behind the British people at this time and completely condemn this appalling terrorism.*

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin made a statement from the G8 summit, stating: *Today, we have been witness to acts of cowardice and terror. The London bombings are an unspeakable attack on the innocent and on a way of life. On behalf of all Canadians, I have extended to Prime Minister Blair the condolences and the sympathies of our nation. We pray for those who have lost their lives, and for their families.*

*Canadian security forces are working closely with those of Great Britain. We stand ready to provide any assistance that may be required at this difficult hour and in the days and weeks ahead.*

*Our collective freedom has come under attack today by those who would use violence and murder to force extremism upon the world. We must and we will stand against these terrorists. We will do so together. And we will prevail.*

US President George W. Bush made a statement in Edinburgh, vowing to be "extra vigilant" in pursuit of terrorism. *On the one hand, you have people here working to alleviate poverty and rid the world of AIDS. The contrast couldn't be clearer between the hearts of those who care about human liberty and those who would take the lives of innocent folks. The war of terror goes on. We will not yield to terror. We will spread an ideology of hope and compassion that will overwhelm their ideology of hate.*

In Spain, which saw attacks on Madrid last year, the Spanish Government said it would help the UK, *"pursue the criminals who have carried out such a repugnant attack against a city that was celebrating its election as the host of the Games of the XXX Olympiad"*.

The European Parliament President Josep Borrel, expressed his condolences, saying: *As president of parliament and a citizen of a country that only last year experienced the horrors of such terrible attacks. I want to send a message of solidarity with British people, we all stand with you, British people, and we will never let atrocities or terrorism defeat the values of peace and democracy.*

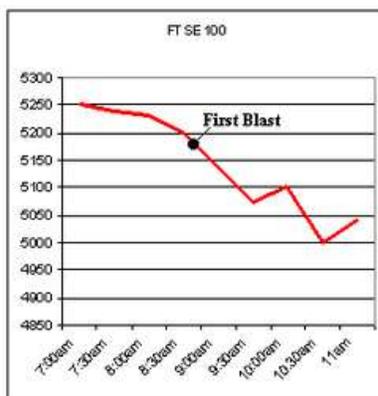
Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen calls the attack in London "terrible": *Once again we witness the barbaric attacks of unrelenting terrorists against innocent people -- civilians, women and children". He further emphasizes the importance of the western world not giving in to terrorism: "They may never be allowed to reach their goal through death and destruction. Therefore I support the continuation of the G8 summit. Our thoughts in this tragic situation go first and foremost to the victims and their families. The British population have our deepest sympathies.*

The Norwegian King Harald telexed Queen Elisabeth II: *It was with great sorrow I recieved the*

*shocking news about the horrible incidents that happened in London this morning, that have injured and claimed the lives of innocent humans" Prime minister Kjell Magne Bondevik urges that the war on terror have to continue: "We cannot let ourself get scared, that would be to give the terrorists the victory.*

Support for Great Britain came from the President of Serbia and the Prime Minister of Kosovo. The President of Serbia and Montenegro, Svetozar Marović, sent his condolences to Queen Elizabeth II and Tony Blair, and expressed solidarity of citizens of Serbia and Montenegro with the British people: *We are stunned by this tragedy and new recklessness of terrorists towards free and civilized countries and their citizens. Innocent victims in London will only strengthen the struggle of the entire human kind against terrorism.*

### International stock markets tumble after UK blasts



*The FTSE reacted quickly to the blasts*

Some stock markets fell sharply Thursday upon news that London was hit by a series of coordinated explosions.

The FTSE 100 Share Index fell over 150 points, over 2.8%. Among the hardest hit stocks were airlines, hospitality and insurance companies, according to reports.

At 11:41UTC, the FTSE 100 [2], the yardstick used to measure the largest British companies on the stockmarket had fallen 3.85%, dropping by 201.2 points to 5028.40. British Airways and the Hilton group lead the losers with drops of over 7% each as investors speculated about a terrorist involvement in the attacks which could

adversely affect tourism and travel. In Paris the Cac 40 Index [3] of France's forty largest companies took an even worse beating, dropping almost 4% by 11:47UTC by 170.37 points to 4109.58. Among the top losers was Axa Insurance which dropped by 5.4%.

Across the border in Germany the Dax [4] had shed 3.15%, or 145.47 points, by 11:50UTC to 4470.02 points. Again among the top losers was a major insurer – Allianz which fell over 5%.

It seems that airlines and insurers have been hit the worst so far. Ryanair has dropped 7.73% or over €400m in value and easyjet has shed 7.28%.

Shortly after news of the explosions spread to trading floors, shares of British Airways fell more than 6 percent. Other stocks affected included Carnival Corporation, InterContinental Hotels Group, Hilton Group, and Prudential.



*The FTSE has recovered some of it's initial loss. Futures trading has seen highly increased volume.*

The FTSE had recovered 116 points at 13:43 after it's initial fall of 206. Increased volume of FTSE futures on LIFFE has meant that many people have been able to profit from the fall.

The price of gold has jumped by 1% as investors seek a secure place for their money.

United States markets have fallen significantly as well, with the Dow having fallen by 65 points, the S&P 500 7.57, and the NASDAQ 7.51 as of 13:43UTC.

### Bush crashes his bike into Scottish police officer

U.S. President George W. Bush crashed his mountain bike into an unfortunate police officer in Scotland.

Mr. Bush, who celebrated his 59th birthday last night was cycling on a bike around the Gleneagles Hotel, where he is staying for the 31st G8 summit, when he, perhaps partially due to the bad weather, crashed into one of the police officers responsible for his and the other leaders safety.

The officer had to be taken to hospital having suffered a twisted ankle whilst Mr. Bush, who was wearing a helmet, only suffered minor bruises despite landing on asphalt. The president had to return to the hotel by van because the bike was too badly damaged.

Bush has been involved in two similar accidents during his presidency. In 2003, he fell off a Segway personal transporter, and in 2004, he fell off a mountain bike.

**Group claims responsibility for London explosions**



The statement

German news magazine Der Spiegel reported today that a letter from an extremist Islamic organization calling itself "Secret Organisation Group of Al-Qaeda of Jihad Organisation" has appeared, a previously unheard-of organization, claiming responsibility for the explosions in London today. The BBC later released a statement, translated from Arabic, from the group. The text reads as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, may peace be upon the cheerful one and undaunted fighter, Prophet Muhammad, God's peace be upon him.

Nation of Islam and Arab nation: Rejoice for it is time to take revenge against the

British Zionist Crusader government in retaliation for the massacres Britain is committing in Iraq and Afghanistan. The heroic mujahideen have carried out a blessed raid in London. Britain is now burning with fear, terror and panic in its northern, southern, eastern, and western quarters.

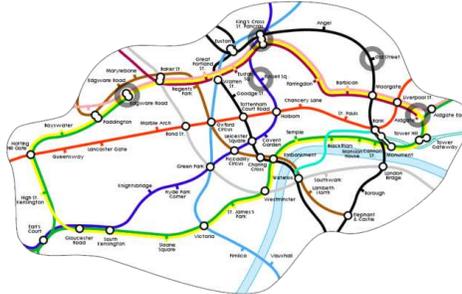
We have repeatedly warned the British Government and people. We have fulfilled our promise and carried out our blessed military raid in Britain after our mujahideen exerted strenuous efforts over a long period of time to ensure the success of the raid.

We continue to warn the governments of Denmark and Italy and all the Crusader governments that they will be punished in the same way if they do not withdraw their troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. He who warns is excused.

God says: "You who believe: If ye will aid (the cause of) Allah, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly.

The statement was published on Qal3ah, an internet forum which has been used before for announcements by Al-Qaeda, though the validity of the claims are currently unconfirmed. At a press conference, the Metropolitan Police stated they had not received any claims of responsibility from any group.

**Transport and telecommunications struggle amid confusion in London**



Amid the confusion surrounding today's London blasts, officials have urged the public to avoid the city if possible to allow emergency services to operate more quickly.

All rail and underground stations remain closed, although efforts are being made to reopen them. Air links are now closed at Stansted, Heathrow, Gatwick and London

City airports.

Those trying to contact friends and family via mobile have struggled as the largest mobile networks, Vodafone, O2 and Orange, have all suffered from full capacity on several occasions this morning meaning voice calls failed.

On the web, websites such as BBC, TfL and the G8 2005 website struggled for a short time at one point this morning under the strain of so many web users visiting them. The national grid has said that it has sustained no damage to the electricity network. On the Traffic England site run by the Highways Agency, London has been marked as a 'Closed area'.



Euston Station cordoned off

The Royal Mail is warning customers that mail collections and deliveries across the UK will be disrupted because of the incidents. Royal Mail vehicles will not be moving in or out of London, or between Royal Mail sites in central London for the remainder of today. At least 25 per cent of the UK's mail moves through London, even if its end destination is elsewhere. Disruption may therefore be felt throughout the UK. Royal Mail expects to issue further information later today.

Bus services in Zone 1 have resumed as of 16:00 BST.

**British Prime Minister Tony Blair speaks about London bombings**

Prime Minister Tony Blair, in a short statement at midday BST from Gleneagles, Scotland, said that it was his intention to travel to London within a few hours to get a clearer picture of the events, before returning to the G8 summit this evening. Looking visibly shocked, he said that he believed it was "reasonably clear" that it was

an act of terror, and that he hoped that the people of Britain could demonstrate that their will to overcome the events is greater than the terrorists' wish to cause destruction. He also said that his determination to "defend" the British way of life outweighed "extremist determination" to destroy it.

He also made it clear that all members of the G8 council wish to continue talks in his absence, he is currently on his way back to London to talk directly to police chiefs and ministers.

#### Text of the statement

*It's reasonably clear that there have been a series of terrorist attacks in London. There are obviously casualties, both people that have died and people seriously injured. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families.*

*It's my intention to leave the G8 within the next couple hours and go down to London and get a report face to face with the police and the emergency services from those who have been dealing with this.*

*Each of the countries around that table have some experience of the effects of terrorism and share our complete resolution to defeat this terrorism. It's particularly barbaric that this has happened on the day when people are meeting to try to help the problems of poverty in Africa and the long-term problems of climate changes in the environment.*

*It's reasonably clear that it is designed and aimed to coincide with the opening of the G8. There will be time to talk later about this. It's important, however, that those engaged in terrorism realize that our determination to defend our values and our way of life is greater than their determination to cause death and destruction to innocent people in a desire to impose extremism on the world. Whatever they do, it is our determination that they will never succeed in destroying what we hold dear in this country and in other civilized nations throughout the world. Thank you.*



Blair and his fellow G8 leaders.

At the G8 conference in Edinburgh,

Scotland, Scotland, Prime Minister Blair made a statement at a press conference accompanied by other leading politicians from the G8 countries, including Presidents Bush, Putin and Chirac.

*We condemn utterly these barbaric attacks. Those responsible have no respect for human life. We are united in our front to defeat terrorism which is not an attack on one nation but on all nations and on civilization as we know it. We will not allow this to stop the work of this summit. We will continue our deliberations in search of a better world. The perpetrators of this attack are intent on destroying human life. The terrorists will not succeed. Today's bombings will not weaken in any way our resolve to defeat those who would impose their fanaticism and extremism on all of us. We shall prevail and they shall not.*

*This article contains first-hand journalism by a Wikinews Reporter.*

#### France raises security level to red in response to London bombings

France has tightened its security, raising its security level to red, after the French government heard news of the London explosions on its transport network.

The French Prime Minister, Dominique de Villepin, convened the French ministers of defence, interior and foreign affairs to discuss the terrorist attacks. While giving no details, Villepin said that security was likely to be boosted on public transport and at important public buildings.

Expressing sympathy and solidarity for the terrorist attacks in London, Villepin said, "More than ever, democracies must rally together and show unity in the face of the terrorist threat. More than ever, we must show vigilance and determination."

President Jacques Chirac also gave his condolences to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, both of whom are currently attending the G8 summit in Scotland.

Chirac's spokesman said, "The president of the republic expressed to the British prime minister the horror caused by the tragic events in London and offered him sincere condolences."

#### US Senator Rick Santorum writes book,

#### receives criticism

A book by US Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), entitled "It Takes a Family: Conservatism and the Common Good", hit stores in Washington over the weekend. Its official publication date is July 25th. Intended as a response to Hillary Clinton's book "It Takes a Village", certain passages of the book have already caused concern in certain circles. Also in the book, Santorum compares abortion to slavery, and advocates against public school systems and two income families.

Already facing perhaps the toughest re-election bid in the country, opponents and supporters of Santorum are using the book to tout their positions. T.J. Rooney, the state Democratic Party chairman, had this to say:

*"References to how families are compromised when both parents work outside the home, how it takes a societal toll on Pennsylvania families or American families, it just shows a complete lack of understanding of the real world in which the vast majority of Pennsylvanians reside."*

Hillary Clinton's office refused to comment on the book.

#### Quotes from the book

"The notion that college education is a cost-effective way to help poor, low-skill unmarried mothers with high school diplomas or GED's move up the economic ladder is just wrong."

"Respect for stay-at-home mothers has been poisoned by a toxic combination of the village elders' war on the traditional family and radical feminism's misogynistic crusade to make working outside the home the only marker of social value and self-respect."

#### Rapper 'Little Kim' sentenced to 1 year in prison

The rapper, Lil' Kim, also known as Kimberly Jones, was sentenced to one year and one day in prison and ordered to pay a \$50,000 fine after lying to a grand jury.

Jones had been questioned about the involvement of several of her acquaintances in a gunfight. Jones had testified before a grand jury that she did not see her manager the day of the altercation and claimed that she did not recognize a photo of one of her associates. Jones also said that she took

"complete blame" for the same perjury committed by her assistant, Monique Dopwell.

The fight broke out in front of the "Hot 97" radio station in New York. Jones' entourage came across the rival rap group, Capone-N-Noreaga, and confronted the group about the song, "Bang, Bang", which contained an insult to Jones.

### **Spyware is changing users' online habits**

According to a report the Pew Internet & American Life Project, 9 out of 10 Internet users have adjusted their online behaviour because of spyware. Of the 2,001 adults surveyed, 97% said that they had heard of the term spyware and 78% said they "had a good idea what the term meant."

61% said they were very confident or somewhat confident they could keep things like computer viruses, spyware and adware off their computers. However, 34% said they have had spyware on their home computers. This number is probably much higher. In an October 2004 study, by AOL and the National Cyber Security Alliance, 53% of respondents said they had spyware or adware on their computers, but a scan showed that 80% of respondents actually had such programs installed.

68% of home internet users report that they have experienced problems that are normally associated with spyware. These problems include computers slowing down or crashing, new unfamiliar programs appearing on their computers and Internet home page changing with out user action.

49% consider spyware to be a serious threat to their online security. 91% of internet users say they have made at least one change in their online behaviour as a result of spyware. 34% have stopped downloading programs from the Internet. 89% said they do not open email attachments unless they are sure they are safe. 25% say they have stopped using peer-to-peer networks, a common source of spyware. 8% say they have switched to a different Web browser.

The Pew Internet & American Life Project report was based based upon a telephone survey conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates between May 4 and June 7, 2005. The Pew Internet & American

Life Project is a non-profit research centre that produces reports that study the social effects of the Internet.

67% percent of homes in the United States now have internet connectivity.

# Wikinews Back Page



## Today in History

- 1497 - Vasco da Gama set sail on first direct European voyage to India.
- 1709 - Battle of Poltava: In Ukraine, Peter I of Russia defeated Charles XII of Sweden at Poltava, effectively ending Sweden's role as a major power in Europe.
- 1889 - The first issue of the Wall Street Journal was published.
- 1947 - Newspapers in Roswell, New Mexico, United States, reported the military's capture of a "flying saucer".
- 1997 - Mayo Clinic researchers warned that the dieting drug "fen-phen" can cause severe heart and lung damage.

## Quote of the Day

"Anyone entrusted with power will abuse it if not also animated with the love of truth and virtue, no matter whether he be a prince, or one of the people." ~ Jean de La Fontaine

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