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Crowds examine the wreckage outside a church in Jakarta

At least 10 people have died and dozens left injured in a wave of synchronised bomb attacks across Indonesia, targeting Christian worshippers at Christmas Eve services.

The blasts were scattered across the Indonesian islands. People died in Sumatra and in several towns in east and west Java, including the capital, Jakarta.

Four of the dead were policemen who tried to disarm a device on Sumatra island, said the official news agency, Antara.

No group has so far said it carried out the attacks, but the BBC's Jonathan Head in Jakarta says the simultaneous timing of so many blasts is bound to throw suspicion on elements of the military.

They have been blamed for stirring up religious conflict in Indonesia in the chaotic two years which have followed the fall of the Suharto regime.

At least five of the blasts happened in Jakarta - one of them close to the city's Roman Catholic cathedral.

"I was in the cathedral with my wife and two children. I am very worried that there will be religious fighting everywhere," said one worshipper, Winarno.

"This is an act of terror against Christians on Christmas Eve," said police Senior Inspector Supono.

One of the explosions happened in east Jakarta at about 2000

“  
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”  
Police Inspector Supono

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▶ The BBC's Jonathan Head in Jakarta "These are familiar scenes in Indonesia"  real [56k](#)

(1300GMT) outside the church of Santa Maria, a police spokesman told the French news agency AFP.

"Forty minutes later, a second explosion took place at a bus stop in front of the Santo Yosef church," said the spokesman.



“ The explosion was like a big firecracker and it caused panic inside ”

Jakarta Cathedral witness



Police were quickly on the scene

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There were four explosions outside one church in the exclusive suburb of Menteng, according to one report.

Christians make up less than 5% of the population of Indonesia - the world's most populous Muslim state.

Christmas celebrations are coinciding this year with the final days of Islam's holy month of Ramadan, which ends on Tuesday night.

### Religious tensions

Over the past two years, escalating clashes between Christians and Muslims in Indonesia have claimed thousands of lives.

Religious tensions have risen in recent months throughout the Indonesian archipelago.

The most serious trouble has been in the Moluccan islands in Indonesia's east, where an estimated 5,000 people of both faiths have been killed in two years of sectarian violence.

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