B B C NEWS

You are in: World: Asia-Pacific

Front Page Thursday, 7 December, 2000, 06:59 GMT

World Moluccas Christians bombed



Americas Asia-Pacific Europe Middle East

South Asia

From Our Own Correspondent

Letter From

America

UK

UK Politics

Business

Sci/Tech

Health

Entertainment

In Depth

AudioVideo





Thousands have died in the last two years

One person has been killed and at least seven injured after home-made bombs were thrown into a Christian procession in Indonesia's troubled Moluccan islands.

A Muslim man was also killed and four others wounded during clashes that broke out after the bombing, Antara news agency

The violence in the provincial capital Ambon follows reports of a massacre of more than 50 Education Christians on an outlying island two weeks ago.

Talking Point The bomb attack occurred as the

Christians were singing hymns on their way to church.

Reports say a hostile crowd of Muslims gathered on the route, drawn by the sound of the singing.

They were being held back by local security forces, when two bombs exploded among the Christians.

One soldier was killed, and several other soldiers and civilians were injured.

A doctor at the state Haulussy



MOLUCCAS

Seram Sea

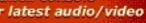
Ambon

Indonesia has declared a civil emergency

Search BBC News Online

Advanced search options

Launch console for latest audio/video



BBC ONE TV NEWS

WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

BBC NEWS 24 BULLETIN

PROGRAMMES GUIDE



More news and analysis

Key stories

Behind the violence

A troubled history

Who are the Laskar Jihad?

Features

Refugees' flight from terror

"God on our side"

INTERACTIVE MAP The fragile archipelago

See also:

05 Dec 00 | Asia-Pacific Hundreds flee Moluccas violence

01 Dec 00 | Asia-Pacific 50 dead in Moluccas clash

27 Sep 00 | Asia-Pacific Moluccan Christians stage embassy protest

25 Sep 00 | Asia-Pacific Aceh truce extended

02 Jul 00 | Asia-Pacific Analysis: Behind the Moluccan violence

Baroness
Caroline Cox,
member of UK's
House of Lords
"Christians have
received threats
that there will be
no church bells
ringing in
Ambon this
Christmas"

■ real **28k**

hospital said one person was wheeled in with his right foot blown off at the ankle, while another had splinters in his backbone.

'No Christmas bells'

Indonesia imposed a state of emergency in the Moluccas in June, in an attempt to rein in the religious violence which has left thousands dead in the past two years.

The conflict intensified earlier this year with the arrival of volunteers from the Muslim paramilitary Laskar Jihad group, which is based in Java.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, a human rights organisation, says Muslim militant forces have threatened that "there will be no church bells ringing in Ambon by Christmas".

'Forced conversions'

The bomb attack comes amid reports that hundreds of

Christians have fled Kasiui island in the east of the Moluccas following a massacre.

Violence in the Moluccas has left

widespread devastation

On Tuesday a Christian lawyer, Sammy Weileruni, said nearly 100 people had been killed in late November after refusing to convert to Islam.

Mr Weileruni said the attacks were carried out by the Laskar Jihad.

He said a man who had just escaped from Kasiui told him hundreds of islanders were converting to Islam out of fear for their lives.

There was no independent confirmation of this account.

However, a government spokesman said the Laskar Jihad had raided two Christian villages on 24 November, killing 54 people and burning churches and houses.

He said extra troops had been despatched to Kasiui to prevent further violence.

Links to other Asia-Pacific stories

20 Jan 00 | Asia-Pacific Thousands flee Lombok

Internet links:

BBC Indonesian Service (with Indonesian news in audio)

Indonesia Online

Indonesian Government

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

Other top Asia-Pacific stories:

Bombs target Indonesian churches

Japan boosts military might

Stand-off in Korean bank protest

Chinese robbers face shoot-to-kill policy

Philippines reflects during trial recess

Australian flights hit by delays

Whales swim to freedom

Fears over Japan's ageing population

Links to top Asia-Pacific stories are at the foot of the page.



 $\frac{News\ Front\ Page\ |\ World\ |\ UK\ |\ UK\ Politics\ |\ Business\ |\ Sci/Tech\ |\ Health\ |\ Education\ |\ Entertainment\ |\ In-Depth\ |\ Talking\ Point\ |\ Audio/Video}{}$

>To BBC Sport