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# Finsbury Park: Theresa May visits mosque after van terror attack in London

Updated 34 minutes ago



PHOTO: Police say they are not looking for any more suspects. (Reuters: Neil Hall)

British Prime Minister Theresa May has visited the Finsbury mosque in London where worshippers were attending prayers before being the targets of a terrorist attack.

One man has been confirmed dead and 10 others were injured when a van ploughed into a crowd of people near a London mosque just after midnight on Monday local time, as worshippers were leaving following Ramadan prayers.

Ms May said the attack was "every bit as sickening as those which have come before".

"It is a reminder that terrorism, extremism and hatred take many forms and our determination to tackle them must be the same, whoever is responsible," she said.

A 47-year-old man is being held for terrorism offences and attempted murder, police said. British media named him as Darren Osborne of Cardiff, Wales.

A witness said the driver of the van that ploughed into people shouted "kill all Muslims".

"He was saying, 'I wanna kill more people, I wanna kill more Muslims'," Abdulrahman Aidroos told the BBC.

Mr Aidroos said he had helped tackle and detain the driver while other witnesses said an imam stepped in to ensure the man was not harmed.

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## Key points:

- Theresa May said attack just was "as sickening" as the ones before
- Witnesses said the attacker shouted "kill all Muslims"
- Police said the attacker was not previously known for extremism

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PHOTO: Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May visited the Finsbury Park mosque near where a van was driven into people. (Reuters: Hannah McKay)

"We found that a group of people quickly started to collect around him, around the assailant and some tried to hit him either with kicks or punches," imam Mohammed Mahmoud said.

"By God's grace we managed to surround him and to protect him from any harm."

One official said the Muslim cleric's "bravery and courage" possibly saved the man's life.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said there would be an increased police presence around mosques in coming days to protect Muslims from hate crimes.

He said there had been a spike in Islamophobic hate crimes since the London Bridge terrorist attack.

"There'll be a zero tolerance toward hate crime," Mr Khan said.

"And my advice to anyone who's the victim of hate crime, is please report it to police."

"Don't think it's too trivial. Don't think the police won't take action, they will."



**UK Prime Minister** @Number10gov

Watch the PM as she made a statement in Downing Street following the terror attack in Finsbury Park.

2:53 PM - 19 Jun 2017

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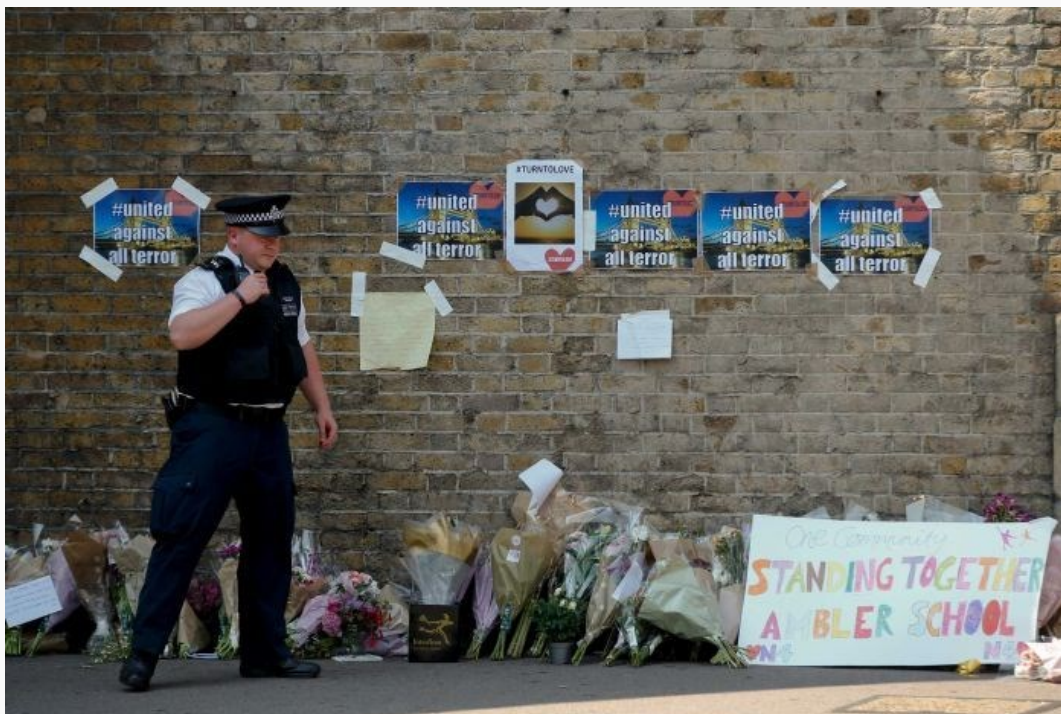


PHOTO: A floral tribute has started to build after a terrorist attack near a Finsbury Park mosque. (AP: Alastair Grant)



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# Attacker not known for extremism links: Police

British Security Minister Ben Wallace said the man who drove the van into worshippers was not previously known to authorities for any links to extremism.

"This man was not known to the authorities in the space of extremism or far-right extremism," Mr Wallace told Sky News.

Police said they were not looking for any more suspects after the arrest of the van's driver.

London's Police Commissioner Cressida Dick said the attack was clearly aimed at Muslims.

"Extra officers are on duty in the area to help reassure the local community. They will be there for as long as they are needed," she said.

"Communities will see additional officers patrolling across the city and at Muslim places of worship.

"We are working as hard as we can to protect all our communities, and we will not be defeated."

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu said it was not yet clear whether the man who died at the scene was killed because of the attack.

"The attack unfolded as a man was already receiving first aid at the scene, sadly that man has died," Mr Basu said earlier.



MAP: [Interactive map showing Finsbury Park in northern London.](#)

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