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India ties Mumbai gunmen to Pakistan

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Information released by Indian police on the nine suspected Islamic militants killed during the terror attack on Mumbai. All alleged hometowns in Pakistan:

ISMAIL KHAN: Used alias Abu Ismail. From Dera Ismail Khan. Leader of attackers. One of two men who shot up Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus train station. (Partner at station, Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, captured alive.)

HAFEEZ ARSHAD: Alias Abdul Rehman Bada. From Multan. One of four men who attacked 105-year-old Taj Mahal hotel.

JAVED: Alias Abu Ali. From Okara. Part of group at Taj hotel.

SHOAIB: Alias Soheb. From Narowal district. Age 20, youngest of attackers. (Not explicitly stated, but seemingly part of Taj group.)

NAZIR: Alias Abu Omer. From Faisalabad. Was fourth gunman at Taj hotel.

NASIR: Alias Abu Omar. From Faisalabad. At 28, oldest of attackers. One of two gunmen who attacked Chabad House Jewish center.

BABAR IMRAN: Alias Abu Akasha. From Multan. Second gunman at Chabad House.

ABDUL REHMAN: Alias Abdul Rehman

MUMBAI, India (AP) — Police released names and photographs of suspected Islamic militants who staged the bloody three-day siege of Mumbai and said they uncovered new details about the gunmen — including hometowns in Pakistan.

The new information, if confirmed, would bolster India's claim that the attack was launched from Pakistan and was released as the Pakistani government announced more arrests in raids on Lashkar-e-Taiba, the militant group that India blames for the assault on its financial capital.

Indian officials maintained a skeptical silence about the reported crackdown and arrest of an alleged mastermind of the Mumbai assault, which killed 171 people, raised fears of war between the nuclear-armed neighbors and eroded U.S. hopes for a regional push against al-Qaeda and other extremists.

Mumbai's chief police investigator, Rakesh Maria, showed photographs of eight of the nine slain attackers — some from identity cards, but three were gruesome pictures of maimed faces. The body of the ninth was too badly burned, he said. The 10th gunman, previously identified as Mohammed Ajmal Kasab, was captured alive.

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Chhota. From Arifwala. One of two men who attacked Oberoi hotel.

FAHADULLAH: Alias Abu Fahad. From Dipalpur Taluka. Second gunman at Oberoi.

From: *The Associated Press*

Maria said all 10 attackers were from Pakistan, most of them from Punjab province, and were between the ages of 20 and 28. He did not say how police had tracked down their hometowns, although they have been interrogating the lone surviving gunman.

The attackers, who apparently landed by boat on the Mumbai coast the night of Nov. 26, were led by Ismail Khan, 25, Maria said, describing him as a battle-hardened Lashkar veteran. The picture released shows a broad-shouldered man with a square, determined face.

As they split up to attack different targets, Khan went with Kasab to a crowded train station where they emptied assault rifles at the helpless passengers before escaping out the back.

Sebastian D'Souza, a journalist who followed them, taking pictures, described the pair as "backpackers with assault rifles."

"They were firing from their hips. Very professional. Very cool," D'Souza told The Associated Press after the attack.

Khan was eventually shot dead and Kasab captured, but not before they had killed the head of Mumbai's Anti-Terror Force and several other officers.

Another picture showed Babar Imran, a gunman who has been described as "hauntingly calm" while holding six people hostage at a Jewish center run by the ultra-Orthodox Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

Imran, with his long thin face and sleepy eyes, used the alias Abu Akasha and came from the central Pakistani city of Multan, Maria said.

During the time he held Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg; Holtzberg's wife, Rivka; and four other visitors to the center,

Imran repeatedly answered Holtzberg's mobile phone, talking to representatives of the Chabad movement in New York.

Imran spoke softly, said P.V. Viswanath, who translated the phone conversations in Urdu for Chabad officials.

"I think that shows something about his state of mind, it was very calm and collected," Viswanath told the AP in New York, where he is a finance professor at Pace University.

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Viswanath, who grew up in Mumbai and is an Orthodox Jew, said Imran didn't display any anger or hatred for Jews. "He didn't say anything about Israel or make any anti-Semitic comments."

Commandos who stormed the Jewish center after two days found all six hostages dead. The Holtzbergs' 2-year-old son, Moshe, survived when he was whisked out of the building by his nanny and another worker.

"It's very hard to say the pictures meant anything for us emotionally," Menachem Brod, a Chabad spokesman in Israel, said of the photos released Tuesday. "They are the ultimate evil."

The youngest attacker was identified as 20-year-old Shoaib, alias Soheb, who was said to come from Punjab's Narowal district. He was among those who fought off Indian commandos for three days at the luxury Taj Mahal hotel, Maria said.

Faiez Ahmad, a senior police official in Multan, Pakistan, where two of the gunmen allegedly came from, said authorities will check into the information if it is officially communicated to the Pakistani government. "We will act according to the law of the land," Ahmad said.

With India and the U.S. pressing Pakistan to crack down on Lashkar, Pakistani authorities shut some of the group's offices and detained 20 more people Tuesday, officials said, though they ruled out extraditing any to India.

A day earlier, the Pakistani government said its troops raided a Lashkar camp in Pakistan's portion of disputed Kashmir on Sunday and arrested Zaki-ur-Lakhvi, the reputed planner of the Mumbai attack, along with 11 other suspected militants.

On Tuesday, troops raided at least five more Lashkar offices, acting on information gleaned from Lakhvi, a senior Pakistani security official said. He said none of the latest 20 people detained were among those named by India as suspects in the attack on Mumbai.

A Lashkar official confirmed there had been more raids on the group's offices, but declined to elaborate. Both he and the security official insisted on speaking anonymously because of the sensitivity of the issue.

India's Foreign Ministry again declined to comment on the crackdown in Pakistan.

Lalit Mansingh, a former Indian ambassador to the United States, said that reflected a cynicism bred of previous, unfulfilled promises from Pakistan to rein in extremists.

"Just having the leaders under house arrest or detaining them doesn't mean that they are taking serious action," Mansingh said.

Also Tuesday, Maria said the captured gunman, Kasab, had asked to be allowed to write a letter to his father in which he expressed regret for participating in the attack.

Maria said that in the letter, written in Urdu, Kasab says "he has been misled by these people," apparently referring to those who recruited him. "Youngsters in the village should be told not to believe in this indoctrination," Maria quoted the letter as saying.