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Who are behind the blasts?

A group calling itself the Deccan Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's terror attacks in Mumbai, but experts are not ruling out the hand of LeT and Al Qaida.

ITGD Bureau and Agencies New Delhi, November 27, 2008 |
 UPDATED 15:52 IST

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A group calling itself the Deccan Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's terror attacks in Mumbai, but there has been no confirmation of this.

The group sent emails to various media organisations, saying it carried out the coordinated attacks across Mumbai, but intelligence experts are not buying the story for now.

Former Intelligence Bureau chief Arun Bhagat says there is no such group as the Deccan Mujahideen. He says the nature of the attacks point to the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT).

But LeT has denied involvement in the Mumbai attacks. According to agency reports, a caller identifying himself as Dr Abdullah Ghaznavi called the local office of a TV network in Kashmir and said the LeT had no links with the terror group that had owned responsibility for the Mumbai strikes.

"LeT condemns such acts and we have no link with those responsible for such acts. Linking us with the strikes in Mumbai is an attempt to malign the ongoing struggle in Kashmir," the caller said.

British counter-terrorism experts, on the other hand, say the Mumbai attacks have all the hallmarks of an Al Qaeda operation.

According to agencies, Western intelligence agencies were "expecting an Al Qaeda spectacular terrorist attack in this crucial period between the end of President George Bush's administration and the succession of Barack Obama".

The experts based their argument on the fact that high visibility locations were targeted in Mumbai where the terrorists' focus was on British and American citizens.

Adding to the confusion is the recovery of a mobile phone from one of the terrorists at Taj Hotel. Calls were made to Karachi from the phone, hinting at the probable hand of Pakistan-based organisations.

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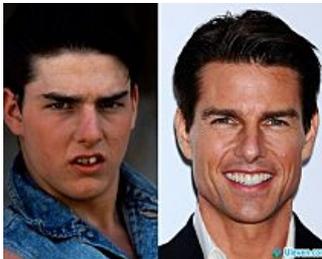
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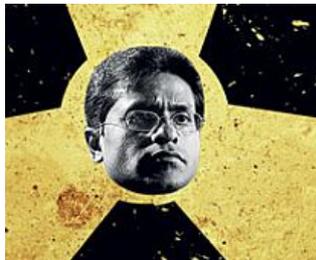
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APJ Abdul Kalam

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