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## WORLD NEWS

# Attackers Likely Had Help Outside India

By **PETER WONACOTT**

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**MUMBAI** -- The arrival by sea of at least some of the Mumbai attackers, and the reported confession of a captured terrorist, may strengthen the Indian government's case that the group received support and training from outside India, most likely in Pakistan.

A senior Mumbai police official told reporters that one terrorist captured had confessed to arriving from Karachi, Pakistan's heaving coastal city. The prisoner also had acknowledged links to Lashkar-e-Taiba, a terror outfit based in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, the official said. He has been identified by local reports as a 21-year-old Pakistani named Azam Ameer Qasab.

After embarking from Karachi, the terrorists reportedly commandeered an Indian fishing vessel in the Arabian Sea and then left it in a small craft destined for Mumbai's shores.

A spokesman for India's regional Coast Guard headquarters in Mumbai, Commandant A.K.S. Panwar, said Thursday a helicopter had noticed an abandoned fishing boat and later discovered a dead body inside. Commandant Panwar declined to give the location of the boat, named Kuber, but he said it was from Porbandar, a coastal city in northern Gujarat. A satellite phone was also found on the boat.

One fisherman on a nearby boat said he saw a group of men -- maybe six or eight in their mid-20s -- leave the vessel around 6 p.m. Wednesday afternoon in a smaller craft. About two hours later, others witnessed a boatload of young men arrive in a fishing community on Mumbai's southern peninsula in dark clothes and tote bags.

Ajay Mestry, a 38-year old fisherman who witnessed their arrival, said most of the young men headed for the city, with some heading in the direction of the Taj Palace & Tower Hotel and others to Nariman Point at Mumbai's southern tip.

Not long after, Mumbai experienced a dramatic terrorist attack that last 60 hours and left 195 dead, including at the Taj and at Nariman House, a Jewish center. Maharashtra state Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh told reporters that nine terrorists were killed and one captured.

Mr. Mestry also said two men stayed with the boat, an indication that the group may have intended to reuse them to flee. What happened to those two men is unclear. Mr. Mestry said he heard from other fishermen they later shot a police officer who came to investigate, forcing them to abandoned the boat and flee. But that account couldn't be verified.

According to Mumbai police, a second motorized raft also was picked up. Members of the local fishing community say another group of men arrived later Wednesday night, around 8:30 p.m.

The increasing signs that the operation had significant links to Pakistan have once again set on edge India's uneasy relationship with its neighbor. Although Pakistan is struggling to quell its own Islamic militancy, and has recently suffered several devastating terror attacks of its own, the government has bristled at accusations that it's fostering terrorist attacks against other countries.

Speaking to reporters in Islamabad, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said his government will cooperate with India in its investigation, but that it was too early to discuss sharing of evidence.

"We have to let the dust settle to dispassionately judge," he said. "We are a responsible neighbor and we will behave and act responsibly."

—Krishna Pokharel and Harsh Joshi contributed to this article.

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