

History

What happened *after* the 2005 London bombings?

Resource 1.2

Summary: 7th July 2005 London bombings

On 7th July, 2005 four suicide bombers detonated bombs in London. Ordinary people travelling to work in the morning were the targets. Three of the bombs went off on London Underground trains and one went off on a double-decker bus. Fifty-two people were killed as well as the bombers themselves and more than seven hundred people were injured. The day has become known as "7/7" because it was on the seventh day of the seventh month of the year.

The first three bombs went off at 8.50am (within a minute of each other) on different tube trains. At this time in the morning, public transport in London is at its busiest. Almost an hour later, at 9.47am, a fourth bomb was detonated on the top deck of a number 30 bus in Tavistock Square. Many of the people on board had been evacuated from the Underground.

Most of the victims were living in the London at the time of the attacks and were between 20 and 60 years old. They came from a diverse range of backgrounds and included people of various nationalities.

The four suicide bombers were later identified and named as Mohammad Sidique Khan, Shehzad Tanweer, Germaine Lindsay and Hasib Hussain. Their parents originally came from outside Britain but they had been born and brought up in Britain. Two of the bombers made video recordings describing their reasons for their actions. They believed that Britain (as well as other countries such as America) was against Muslims around the world and was carrying out actions to harm them.

Although they claimed to speak on behalf of Muslims, these men were Islamic extremists, not ordinary Muslims. Most Muslims were horrified by their actions.