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News

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# Subway bomb plot foiled in New York, officials say

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an attack on New York subways.

Police Commissioner Howard Safir said that the material was powerful enough to kill anyone within 50 feet of detonation in an enclosed space.

The plot was uncovered late Wednesday when a man, describing himself as a co-conspirator in the throes of a change of heart, waved down a police officer to confer. His information carried a chilling resonance: On Wednesday, two suicide bombers had set off explosions in a crowded Jerusalem market, killing 13 other people.

The discovery of the explosives was another reminder of the city's vulnerability to terrorism, a point made forcefully in February 1993 when a bomb exploded beneath the World Trade Center, killing six people.

The arrests came four days before opening arguments in the trial of convicted terrorist Ramzi Yousef, charged in Manhattan federal court with plotting the World Trade Center bombing.

Ghuliani and federal officials were careful not to link the arrests to any single group or nationality. But the mayor said: "There are indications at least one of the people involved in this, that was arrested, was yesterday expres-



Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, left, FBI Assistant Director James Kallstrom, center, and Police Commissioner Howard Safir, right, discuss Thursday's arrests of 3 men suspected in a New York City bomb plot.

ing support for what happened in Israel and was grateful that it had occurred."

Giuliani declined to reveal the suspects' nationalities, saying only that they were from the Middle East.

But investigators said two of the suspects, Ladi Dhuik, 21, and Gazi Ibrahim Abu Moser, 21, had been in the United States for six months, were carrying passports from Jordan and had identified themselves as Palestinians. The two men, both in stable condition with multiple gunshot wounds at Kings County Hospital, were charged with conspiring to blow up buildings and vehicles.

City police officials said the third man was Abdul Rahman Mousabeh, 31, an Egyptian who entered the country two weeks ago.

Federal officials said they were unsure whether the men were connected to Hamas, the group suspected in Wednesday's Israeli bombing, or other terrorist groups such as Islamic Jihad. Some officials said they were discussing

Brooklyn and unserved many of its residents. About 50 people were evacuated from a three-block area in the residential Park Slope neighborhood as helicopters hovered overhead and sharpshooters took their positions on rooftops. The R, M, N and B subway trains were either rerouted or delayed, affecting the commuting of about 30,000 people. Vehicle traffic was diverted from the crime scene, only to clog side streets.

The events began unfolding with the frantic waving of a strange object along a darkened Broadway street. Law enforcement officials said the man, whom they identified as Mohammed Chindiruf, flung down a Long Island Rail Road police car at 10:45 p.m. and tried to explain, in Arabic, that disaster was imminent. He repeatedly screamed "Bomba," the official said, as he cupped his hands and flung them apart to mimic an explosion.

Once an interpreter was summoned, the men said that he had been sent from Egypt to convey instructions to several men living in an apartment at 248 Fourth Avenue and that there were plans to blow up subways and buses in New York City.

There have been conflicting accounts of the man's explanation for the motive of the conspirators. But according to one investigator, the man said: "My roommates are going to follow up on Jerusalem."

## Yogurt shop case gets new investigation

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night of Dec. 6, 1991. Thomas and Jennifer Harrison worked at the I Can't Believe It's Yogurt shop on West Anderson Lane, and the four teenagers had closed the store minutes before the store was robbed and set alight.

The new investigation is being done outside the Austin police homicide unit, which has had responsibility for the case since the murder. McDonald said the move is not a reflection on the unit or the investigators, and the team will work with the homicide division as an adjunct.

"They are going to work closely with homicide," McDonald said. The supervising sergeant will be Jerry Fawn, formerly a homicide investigator and more recently assigned to narcotics and the grand unit. The two detectives have not been selected and might not come from the homicide unit, McDonald said.

Lt. David Parkinson, supervisor of homicide at APD, would not comment Thursday, and the sergeant over the yogurt shop case could not be reached. Other officers outside the division said homicide officers were increased, in large part because they were not notified of the developments until well after the fact.

McDonald said the team of investigators, which he declined to describe as a task force, had no time limit but probably would work the case for about three months.

Dusek at the attorney general's office said the new investigation "is not being done because there's anything new; it's being done to make use of persons and a perspective that has not yet seen the evidence seen the information, that may not have any preconceived ideas about the case and may not be influenced in any particular direction."

He said the five or six people from his office would not work only on the yogurt shop case but "initially they will be spending a considerable amount of time on this. As things develop more may be added or fewer may be working on it." The employees are from the prosecutor's assistance division of the office.

"We will take an objective look and follow any leads we think should be pursued," Dusek said.

District Attorney Bonnie Earle said the effort was part of a periodic review needed in many unsolved cases. "There's been a lot of hard work on this case. It helps to get the whole team together from time to time to look at it again."

Austian U.S. Attorney Ben Sivert declined comment.

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