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India blame outside forces for attack on Jalalabad consulate

By GHANIZADA

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The government of India on Saturday condemned deadly attack on Indian consulate in eastern Jalalabad city of Afghanistan and blamed outside forces for the attack that left at least 9 people dead and 23 others injured.

Suicide bombers detonated an explosives-packed car, killing nine civilians, including eight children. No Indian officials were killed, though the blast badly damaged a mosque and dozens of homes and small shops nearby.

The external affairs ministry of India following a statement said, "This attack has once again highlighted that the main threat to Afghanistan's security and stability stems from terrorism and the terror machine that continues to operate from beyond its borders."

"India will not be deterred from its commitment to assist Afghanistan in its reconstruction and development effort," the ministry said in its statement.

Syed Akbaruddin, a spokesman for the Indian foreign ministry in New Delhi said, "This was clearly an attack not just against India but an attack against the efforts to help the Afghan people overcome the tragic hardships they have endured due to several decades of war."

India is one of the main rivals of Pakistan, and the two nations have long been struggling to increase their power and influence in Afghanistan after the departure of most international forces by the end of next year.

Militants in Afghanistan have carried out several attacks against India during the past one decade. At least 60 people were killed following a car bomb attack at the Indian embassy in Kabul in 2008.

Another attack was carried out on Indian embassy in 2009, while two guesthouses used by Indians were attacked by gunmen and suicide bombers in 2010 that many dead and injured.

No group including the Taliban militants has so far claimed responsibility behind today's incident. However, India's Mail Today reported that New Delhi's ambassador to Kabul was recently warned that the ISI had paid the Haqqani insurgent network – which is allied with the Taliban – to assassinate him.

A senior Indian official quoted by Mail Today said, "It was a specific alert. A team of security officials was sent to Afghanistan for a security review and it has made some recommendations. Clearly the aim is to pin down our top diplomat so we back off from our work."