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## Chinese embassy condemns ‘terrorist attack’ on citizens in Karachi



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The Chinese embassy in Pakistan has strongly condemned the deadly explosion near Karachi’s international airport, labelling it a “terrorist attack” that resulted in the tragic deaths of two Chinese nationals. In a statement, the embassy confirmed that the explosion targeted a convoy

from the Port Qasim Electric Power Company and expressed deep condolences for the victims from both countries. The separatist militant group, the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), claimed responsibility for the attack, asserting that it was executed using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device aimed specifically at Chinese engineers, according Media. The BLA has a history of targeting Chinese interests in the region, accusing Beijing of exploiting Balochistan and has previously killed Chinese citizens and attacked Chinese facilities, including the consulate in Karachi. In response to the attack, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan issued a statement condemning the “heinous terrorist attack” that claimed the lives of two Chinese engineers and injured another. The ministry extended its “deepest condolences and sympathies” to the families of the victims, both Chinese and Pakistani, and offered prayers for the swift recovery of the injured. According to the Ministry, this “deplorable act of terrorism” not only attacks Pakistan but also jeopardises the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. The Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch reiterated Pakistan’s unwavering commitment to bringing the perpetrators of this “cowardly attack” to justice, specifically mentioning the Majeed Brigade as being involved. She assured that Pakistan’s security and law enforcement agencies would spare no effort in apprehending the perpetrators and their facilitators, promising that this “barbaric act will not go unpunished.” Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif echoed these sentiments, condemning

the attack and declaring that the attackers were enemies of Pakistan rather than representatives of its people. He extended heartfelt condolences to the Chinese leadership and the families of the victims, affirming that the safety of Chinese nationals remains a top priority for his government. This incident, which has sent shockwaves throughout Karachi, reinforces Pakistan's resolve to combat terrorism. Law enforcement agencies are intensifying efforts to apprehend those responsible, with officials promising severe repercussions for the perpetrators. The Foreign Ministry is maintaining close communication with the Chinese Embassy to coordinate security measures and reassure Chinese citizens in Pakistan. As Pakistan and China navigate this challenging situation, the commitment to protecting the deep-rooted friendship between the two nations remains steadfast, despite the challenges posed by such tragic incidents. Pakistan reaffirms its "unwavering commitment" to the safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects, and institutions in the country, emphasising its dedication to working hand in hand with their "Chinese brothers" to defeat the forces of terror. Last night, the oil tanker explosion near Jinnah International Airport in Karachi created chaos and fear on Sunday, resulting in two fatalities and injuries to ten others, including several security personnel. The blast occurred close to the airport signal and was so powerful that it was heard from a significant distance, prompting residents to evacuate their homes in panic. Three cars and four motorcycles were destroyed due to the

explosion, leading to immediate traffic disruption on Sharea Faisal as authorities worked to manage the situation. Rangers and police swiftly arrived at the scene, cordoning off the area and allowing fire brigade teams to combat the flames resulting from the blast. It took about an hour for the fire to be brought under control, and rescue officials confirmed that among the injured were three security guards, two Rangers, a police officer, a foreign national, and three civilians. The foreign national was subsequently transported to a private hospital for medical care. The Sindh Home Minister, Zia Hassan Lanjhar, stated that initial investigations indicated the explosion was a targeted attack on a vehicle carrying a foreign national. Police officials, including SSP Malir Kashif Abbasi, affirmed that they were exploring all angles of the incident. In response to the tragedy, the Chief Minister of Sindh, Murad Ali Shah, called for a detailed report from the police chief and urged authorities to ensure that the injured received immediate and high-quality medical treatment.