Tripura rebels blow up police vehicle, 7 cops killed (India)

Sidhai (India) - Seven policemen were killed when All-Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) militants blew up their bullet-proof vehicle at Noagaon in West Tripura at 11.15 am on Monday.

(11.08.2003)
The attack is believed to be part of efforts to enforce a boycott of Independence Day celebrations.

Seven policemen were injured. The rebels looted the arms and ammunition the cops were carrying. The militants are believed to have crossed the border into Bangladesh soon after.

The explosion created a deep crater on the road and destroyed the front of the one-toner bullet-proof vehicle. Experts say a remotely detonated improvised explosive device was used.

Some fuse and wires were found at the site. A police officer said a Tripura State Rifles convoy crossed the site minutes before the blast. The rebels, he said, had targeted this particular vehicle.

It was carrying a team of nine SPOs and four state police personnel, who set off from Sidhai police station at around 10.30 am to provide security to a weekly market at Barakathal.

Von: 11 August 2003, hindustantimes.com. All rights reserved. By Syed Sajjad Ali.

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