



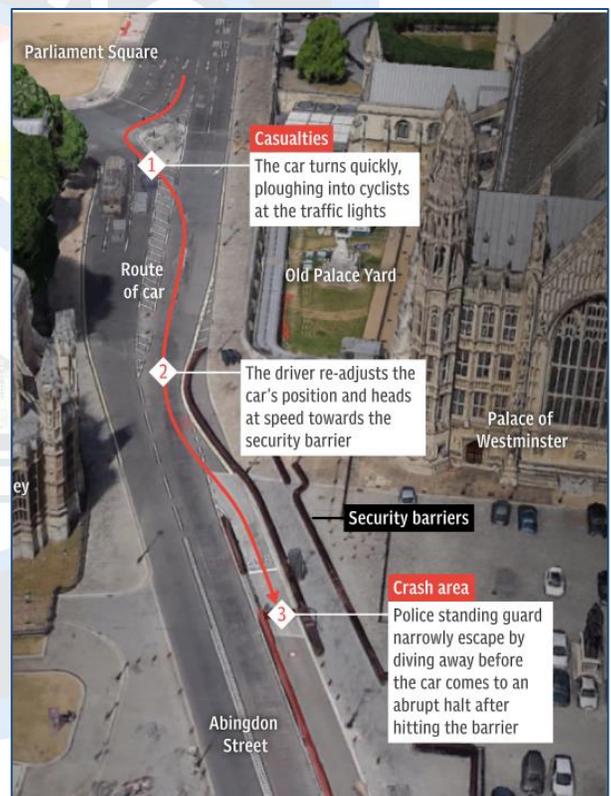
Vehicle Ramming Attack at Houses of Parliament in London, England

Information Cutoff: 3 p.m. on August 14, 2018

ATTACK OVERVIEW

On Tuesday, August 14, 2018, at approximately 7:37 am local time, a publicly unidentified 29-year-old man drove a Ford Fiesta into a crowd of cyclists and pedestrians before he crashed into a security barrier outside of the Houses of Parliament in London, England. Parliament was not in session at the time of the attack.

- According to several eyewitnesses, the perpetrator was traveling westbound at approximately 50 mph and appeared to deliberately attempt to hit people as he swerved into the opposite lane, potentially aiming for two police officers. Three civilians were injured in the attack, but none received serious or life-threatening injuries. Footage released by media outlets reveal that a police officer jumped out of the way to avoid being struck.
- The assailant, who was allegedly not previously known to counterterrorism authorities, was arrested at the scene by armed officers. He was the only person in the vehicle at the time of the attack and no weapons have been recovered. He has been taken to a south London police station where he remains in custody. According to media reports, he is not cooperating with authorities.
- Neil Basu, Scotland Yard's head of counterterrorism, stated that the incident is being treated as an act of terrorism, as it appears to be a deliberate act at an iconic site using a method touted by extremists. However, he went on to say that there was no intelligence indicating any further danger to London or the UK as a whole and no other suspects have been reported to police.



- Authorities believe the car traveled from Birmingham to London on the night of August 13. The vehicle was spotted around London starting at 1:35 am local time, including around the Westminster area starting around 6:00 am local time until the incident took place.
- As of 3:00 pm EST, raids are being carried out at two locations in Birmingham and one in Nottingham in connection to the attack.

THREAT ASSESSMENT

The vehicle ramming attack outside the Houses of Parliament is consistent both with attack instructions and targeting advice provided by ISIS and al-Qa'ida.

- Three separate issues of ISIS's Rumiya magazine featured tactical guidance on vehicle ramming. Al-Qa'ida has also discussed vehicle-ramming in several of its publications, most notably in a July 2016 issue of its *Inspire Guide* and a 2010 issue of its *Inspire* magazine, specifically urging readers to weaponize vehicles and recommending that potential assailants reach a high speed in order to inflict "maximum carnage."
- ISIS advises its adherents to practice ahead of their planned attack. According to media reports, the vehicle that Khater used was seen in the Westminster area for approximately an hour and a half until the incident took place. It is unknown if Khater was conducting surveillance of the area during this time.

A similar attack took place in March 2017, when 52 year-old Khalid Masood killed several pedestrians on the Westminster Bridge before crashing into a gate outside Parliament and fatally stabbing a police officer; his attack was later claimed by ISIS.

- The barrier that Khater's vehicle hit in this latest incident was possibly installed after the March 2017 Westminster Bridge attack.

IMPLICATIONS FOR NEW YORK CITY

- Vehicular attacks remain an attractive tactic for extremist groups and their sympathizers as such assaults require minimal preparation, making them more challenging for law enforcement officials to detect and disrupt.
- Those wishing to stage such an attack may attempt to modify the intended vehicle, such as by affixing knives or edged objects to the exterior, or carry separate weapons in order to inflict maximum lethality.
- Security personnel are reminded to be watchful of individuals demonstrating suspicious behavior when renting or purchasing large, cargo-style vehicles, including unfamiliarity with operating such equipment; however, as several recent attacks have demonstrated, a perpetrator can cause casualties using any type of four-wheeled vehicle.
- Security personnel are advised to be on alert for suspicious behavior that could indicate pre-operational surveillance for an attack. Such behavior could include individuals taking photographs of bollards and curb height at iconic locations; loitering near such locations; and asking probing security-related questions.
- Public vigilance and awareness campaigns such as the "If you see something, say something" initiative play an important role in identifying suspicious behavior, as well as in identifying unattended packages, bags, and other items which could be used in terrorist attacks to conceal weapons or explosive devices.
- Information sharing and prompt reporting of suspicious behavior indicators between the public, private-sector security personnel, and law enforcement are vital to the deterrence, detection, and disruption of terrorist activity and the prevention of attacks.

SOURCES

Westminster Car Crash: Man Arrested on Suspicion of Terror Offenses *BBC* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-45180120>
 Parliament Car Crash- Live: Police Raid Three Properties as Focus Falls on Terror Suspect After "Appalling Incident". *The Independent*. 14 August 2018.

If You See Something, Say Something – 1-888-NYC-SAFE (1-888-692-7233)

Police Department
 City of New York