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The blast caused serious damage to the army barracks

**By Jane Warr**

A British Muslim has been named by an Islamic militant group in Indian-administered Kashmir as the suicide bomber who carried out a car bomb attack on Christmas Day which killed 10 people.

The group's newspaper says he packed a car with explosives and blew himself up outside an Indian Army barracks in Srinagar.

British officials have yet to confirm the identity of the bomber.

According to a report in the London Times on Thursday, the suicide bomber has been named as 24-year old Mohammed Bilal, a former student from the English city of Birmingham, who operated under the name Abdullah Bai.

He is now being hailed as a hero by armed Islamic militant groups across Pakistan and Kashmir who refer to him as the "holy warrior".

**Powerful blast**

Police believe Mohammed Bilal was among five armed men who stole the car and packed it with explosives before driving it to one of the Indian Army's headquarters.



Security in Kashmir was stepped up following the blast

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They say he set off the bomb when he was challenged by guards at the checkpoint outside the main entrance, killing six Indian soldiers and three Kashmiri students who were returning home to celebrate the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

The blast was so powerful, nothing was left of his body.

The attack was one of a series intended to derail a ceasefire announced by India during Ramadan.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir since 1947.

Over 30,000 people have died in the past 12 years since separatist groups began their campaign.

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