

## Philippine Congress Explosion, Quezon City -----13 November 2007, 2015 HRS



### Incident

At about 8.15pm local time an explosion occurred outside the Batasang Pambansa (House of Representatives) Complex in Quezon City, Manila. House Speaker Jose de Venecia said shortly after the explosion that the blast was caused by a bomb aimed at destabilizing the government and the congress.

### Possible Target

News reports are sketchy at best but up to three people have been killed and eleven people are reportedly injured. Basilan Representative Wahab Akbar who is believed to be the intended target of the bombing died as a result of injuries sustained in the blast. Wahab Akhbar, a representative for the Southern Island of Basilan is the former governor of Southern Basilan province. He has been targeted by the Abu Sayyaf Group in the past for launching an offensive against them. He and his family hold extensive powers in Basilan where his wife is the governor and another wife is the Mayor of Isabela city the capital city of Basilan province.



### Other Casualties

The other two fatalities were a staff member of Negro Occidental Representative Pryde Henry Teves and a driver of one of the law makers. The injured include Representative Luzviminda Ilagan of party-list group Gabriela and Representative Teves who is in critical condition. The attack appears to have been well timed as all the casualties were sustained as the legislators were leaving the complex in the vehicles after a session of the House of Representatives had ended.



### Investigations

Local news agencies reported that eye witness saw a suspicious vehicle outside the session hall hinting at the possibility of a vehicle borne explosive device. Other eye witness reports say that the explosion came from a flower box near the

steps in the south wing lobby going to the basement. National Capital Region Police Chief, Geary Barias told reporters that the police had recovered parts of the bomb which point at the use of a cell phone activated device. Two wrecked motorcycles are believed by police to have been used to carry the device. Metro Manila has been placed on full alert as a result of the bombing.



*Research Analyst Vishnu Varathan  
ICPVTR*