

At least 4 dead in Saudi Arabia mosque bombing

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Riyadh: Two gunmen wearing suicide bomb belts attacked a Shia mosque in eastern Saudi Arabia during Friday prayers, an assault that killed at least four people and wounded seven, authorities said.

The attack struck the Imam Reza Mosque in the neighbourhood of Mehasin, an area popular with Shia workers of the state-run Saudi Arabian Oil Co., the world's largest oil-producing firm.

One attacker detonated his explosives, while the other opened fire, the Interior Ministry said in a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency. The other attacker was stopped from blowing himself up, it said.

The Interior Ministry said the attack killed four.

In the attack's chaotic aftermath, Saudi police fired assault rifles into the air to drive away an angry mob that surrounded a police car holding a suspected attacker, according to video shot from the scene.

Shias in Saudi Arabia make up some 10 to 15% of the ultra-conservative, Sunni-ruled kingdom's population. The minority group, many of whom live in the country's oil-producing east, previously have been targeted in attacks by the Islamic State group, which views Shias as heretics. No group immediately claimed Friday's attack.

Earlier this month, Saudi officials executed prominent Shia cleric Nimr al-Nimr, who comes from the east of the country, raising tensions in the area. The cleric's brother, Mohammed al-Nimr, was a witness of the attack and told the AP he believed the death toll from the attack likely was higher.

- AP