

## **25 killed in suicide in suicide bombing at Damascus Justice Palace**

15/03/2017 22:06 by admin

**Damascus:** A suicide bomber detonated his explosives' vest inside the main judicial building in the Syrian capital on Wednesday, killing at least 25 people and wounding many others, state media said.

The bombing inside the Justice Palace, located near the famous and crowded Hamidiyeh market in Damascus, was the latest in a spate of explosions and suicide attacks targeting government-controlled areas in Syria and its capital.

It came as Syrians mark the sixth anniversary of the country's bitter civil war, which has killed more than 400,000 people and displaced millions of others.

The conflict began in March 2011 as a popular uprising against President Bashar Assad's rule but quickly descended into a full-blown civil war.

The chaos allowed al-Qaida and later the Islamic State group to gain a foothold in the war-torn nation.

According to Damascus police chief the attacker struck in the early afternoon - at 1.20 p.m (1120GMT). A man wearing a military uniform and carrying a shotgun and grenades arrived at the entrance to the palace, the police chief told state TV.

The guards stopped the man, took away his arms and asked to search him. At that point, the man hurled himself inside the building and detonated his explosives, the chief said.

Syria's attorney general confirmed that account to state TV, saying that when the security guards tried to arrest the man, he threw himself inside the palace and blew himself up.

Ambulances rushed to the scene to transfer casualties to hospital.

There was no immediate claim for Wednesday's bombing, which came during a new round of peace talks in the Kazakh capital of Astana. Syria's armed opposition boycotted those talks due to what they say are ongoing government military offensives across the country.

- IT