

Somalia: Car bomb kills 11 at shopping mall in Mogadishu

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The blast occurred in Mogadishu's Hamarweyne district, a busy area with shops and restaurants.

A Somali man evacuates women from the scene where a car bomb exploded at a shopping mall in Mogadishu, Somalia February 4, 2019. (Reuters)

Mogadishu: A car bomb exploded at a shopping mall in Somalia's capital on Monday, killing 11 people and wounding 10 in an attack that police said was probably carried out by Islamist group al Shabaab.

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The blast occurred in Mogadishu's Hamarweyne district, a busy area with shops and restaurants.

Several dead people were removed from a wrecked building at the blast scene. So far the death toll is 11 civilians and 10 others injured, police officer Mohamed Hussein said.

Somali security forces look at the scene of an explosion in Mogadishu, Somalia February 4, 2019. (Reuters)

A Reuters witness saw one dead person at the scene, where four cars burned and a restaurant was destroyed.

Al Shabaab frequently carries out bombings in Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia against the government and other targets.

The group is trying to oust the Western-backed central government and establish its own rule based on its strict interpretation of sharia law.

Al Shabaab's militants also carry out attacks outside Somalia. Its latest assault in neighbouring Kenya, a suicide and gun attack at an office and hotel complex in the capital Nairobi last month, killed 21 people.

Al Shabaab wants Kenya to withdraw its troops from Somalia where they are stationed as part of an African peacekeeping force which helps defend the central government.

- Reuters