

Falling Masonry Injury Pattern on an Innocent Victim of High Explosive Suicidal Blast on Easter Sunday- A Case Report

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The LTTE is responsible for introducing the world at a large scale the concept of suicidal bombing. It is an intelligent and highly efficient way of mass homicide as well as individual target destruction. The ISIS during their Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka has employed the same method in carrying out a series of coordinated blasts. As one such bomber had apparently missed his target he had returned to his hotel room for future planning. During this time he had to blow himself off to prevent from being caught by the armed forces. Depending on the mechanism of destruction, the damage caused by high explosives could be categorized as primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary. An unmarried young female who happened to occupy the adjoining room with her boyfriend at the time of the blast had succumbed to extensive quaternary injuries including head injuries due to falling masonry. The postmortem examination also revealed pulmonary contusions. The middle ear and the intestines were unremarkable. The authors wish to discuss some important medico-legal issues such as the pattern of the injuries sustained during the blast, period of survival, interpretation of peri-mortem injuries, other possible injuries she could have sustained according to the novel theories of blast, the socio-cultural issues and collection of trace evidence etc.

Keywords: Falling masonry, Head injury, High explosives, Suicide bomber