

# 22 killed in British terror blast

## Man detonates bomb at Ariana Grande concert in Manchester Arena

**MANCHESTER:** Twenty-two people, including children, were killed and dozens injured when a man detonated a bomb at a pop concert by US star Ariana Grande, in Britain's deadliest terror attack in 12 years.

Screaming fans, many of them teens, fled the venue in panic after the bomb blast at the end of the concert in the northern English city of Manchester on Monday evening.

"There was heat on my neck and when I looked up there were bodies everywhere", Elena Semino, who was waiting for her 17-year-old daughter, told the *Guardian* newspaper.

Semino, who was herself injured, said she had been standing by the ticket office of the 21,000-capacity indoor Manchester Arena when the explosion went off.

"A huge bomb-like bang went off that hugely panicked everyone and we were all trying to flee the arena", said Majid Khan, 22, who was at the show with his sister.

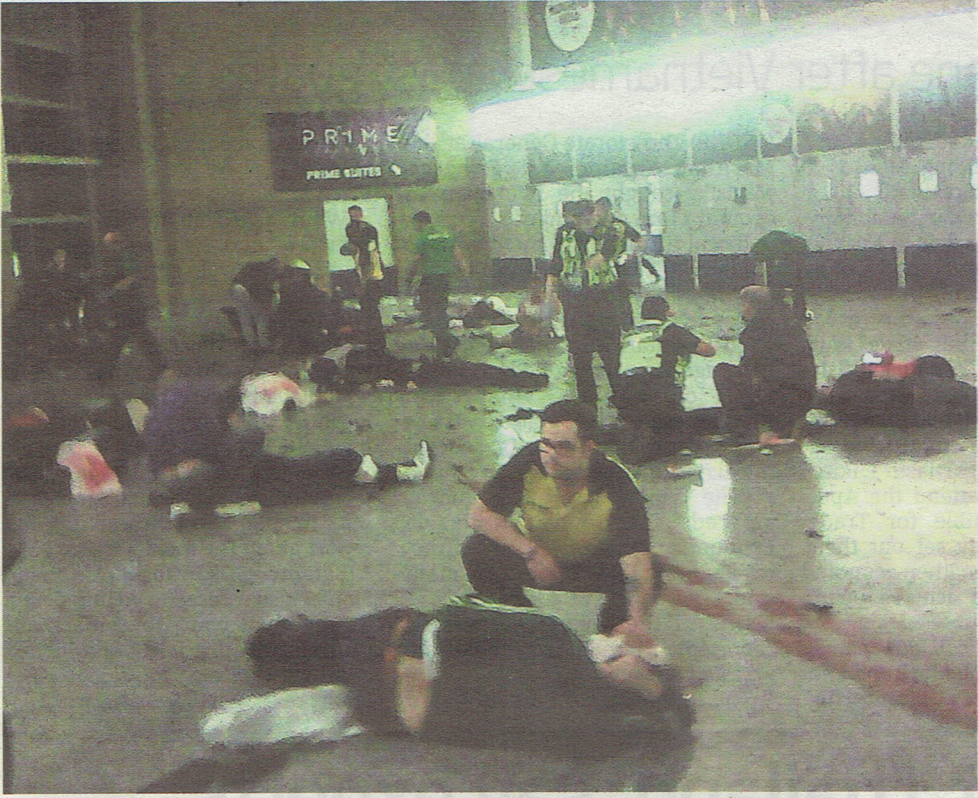
Ambulances and bomb disposal teams rushed to the venue, as family members frantically searched for their loved ones, and residents opened their doors to stranded concert-goers after trains were cancelled.

There were children among the 22 killed in the attack, while 59 people were injured, Greater Manchester Police chief Ian Hopkins said early yesterday.

Police said that a 23-year-old man has been arrested in South Manchester over the attack.

British Prime Minister Theresa May condemned the "appalling terrorist attack".

"All our thoughts are with the victims and the families of those



**To the rescue:** Helpers attending to injured people inside the Manchester Arena, after the blast. — AP

who have been affected," said May, who was due to chair an emergency ministerial meeting at around 9.00am yesterday.

Grande, who was due to give a concert in London later that day said she was "broken" in a tweet.

"Broken. From the bottom of my heart, I am so, so sorry. I don't have words," wrote the 23-year-old, who is popular with teens and pre-teens.

The attack was the deadliest in Britain since July 7, 2005 when four suicide bombers inspired by Al-Qaeda attacked London's transport system during rush hour, kill-

ing 52 people and wounding 700 more.

The Manchester blast recalled the November 2015 attack at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris in which armed men wearing explosive belts stormed in and killed 90 people.

That attack was claimed by the Islamic State militant group.

Police were called to the scene at the Manchester Arena concert and sports venue at 10.33pm.

Manchester Arena said the blast "took place outside the venue in a public space", while police said it

was "within the foyer area of the stadium."

The foyer connects the auditorium with Victoria train and tram station, a major transport hub on the northern edge of the city centre.

One witness, Gary Walker, told BBC Radio 5 Live he was hit by shrapnel in his foot and his wife sustained a stomach wound as they waited for their daughters.

"We heard the last song go and then suddenly there was a massive flash and then a bang and smoke," he said. — AFP