

# **EXCLUSIVE – Inside factory where Sri Lanka jihadists plotted to slaughter Christians:**

'Mother of Satan' explosive used in attacks 'were made in workshop owned by one of the suicide bombers'

*From the [Ilham Ibrahim's wife, Fatima](#), set off a bomb, killing herself and her two children, according to police sources. Three police commandos were killed in the blast, and several extended family members are among those in detention.*

'It was a single terror cell operated by one family,' the investigator said. 'They had the cash and the motivation. They operated the cell and it is believed they influenced their extended family.'

The terrorist, who had eight siblings, phoned his wife one last time at 7:30am on Sunday, an hour before the attack, to say his final goodbyes. 'He told her that he was in Zambia and everything was fine,' Mr Alamdeen said. 'Then an hour later he was dead.'

Inshaf's copper factory was raided last night by police, who took nine suspects into custody, including the manager, supervisor and technician.

The investigation is ongoing, but detectives believe the location was used to build the suicide vest using the explosive substance triacetone triperoxide, dubbed 'Mother of Satan' by Al Qaeda for its destructive power.

The substance, a calling card of Islamist terrorists, played a role in both the 2017 Manchester bombing and 2015 Paris

Bataclan attacks.

When MailOnline visited the factory, about 11 Indian and Bangladeshi immigrants were there, saying they felt 'very nervous'.

'The police have come here many times and looked at everything,' said Mohammad Sarowan, 25, from Bangladesh. 'We have done nothing wrong. We are innocent. They are interested mainly in the Sri Lankans. 'This factory is our life. We live here and work here and we are paid \$150 a month. Now the boss has gone and police are here every day.'

Inshaf was 'calm and devout' but never wore traditional Muslim dress, Mr Sorowan added. Tall and lightly bearded, he would come to the factory daily for about 20 minutes and speak only to the manager. 'He never allowed anybody to take his photograph and he said it was because of his religious beliefs,' the Bangladeshi migrant said.

A senior police source closely involved with the investigation told MailOnline that Inshaf's financial background 'doesn't appear to add up'. 'Where did he get so much money from? That is the question we are asking,' the source said. 'The network is so widespread that we are just starting to piece it together. It's like a cancer that has already spread through the body that we are trying to cure.'

Born in the city of Kandy in central Sri Lanka, Inshaf attended the respected D. S. Senanayake College in Colombo. He lived with his family in an apartment in the Dematagoda district of Colombo owned by his father. It was this apartment that blew up when police raided it, killing three officers, Mr Alamdeen said.

Investigators said it was not known whether the brothers were in contact with the other bombers.