

# Manchester bomb was made to kill as many as possible, inquest into deaths of 22 who died hears

From the [\*Guardian\*](#)

A senior coroner praised the 'truly unbelievable dignity and strength' of bereaved families after he formerly (sic) opened inquests into the deaths of the 22 people killed in the <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/09/manchester-bomb-made-kill-many-possible-inquest-hears/> from Abedi...the force of the bomb ... was strong enough to kill people at least 20 metres from the blast, an inquest has heard.

He told the hearing that the device was in a rucksack he was carrying and contained a 'massive number' of small metal objects which flew through the air at 'a high velocity'. The attack, he said, was 'designed to kill and maim indiscriminately'. The hearing was told that 19 people died at the scene and three others later in hospital.

The court, sitting at the Manchester civil justice centre, was shown diagrams of the arena, with coloured circles showing where each person died. Abedi was allocated a red dot. His victims, aged from eight to 51, were given pink dots. A circle of pink dots formed a ring around the red, with others scattered in the furthest corners of the foyer.

A total of 221 people received medical care, Det Supt Chadwick said. Many suffered life-changing injuries and a 'small number' remain critically ill in hospital, the court heard.

He went on to confirm the status of the police investigation. A total of 21 arrests have been made and searches carried out

at 32 addresses. Of those held, three people remain in custody.

Det Supt Chadwick said at each of the inquest openings: "There is still a very substantial police investigation ongoing which will take some time to complete."

The inquest into the death of murderer Salman Abedi meanwhile is expected to be opened then adjourned at a later date. It will be dealt with separately to the inquests of the victims.

Of the 22 killed in the atrocity, six were schoolgirls – eight-year-old Saffie Roussos, from Tarleton, near Preston, Olivia Campbell-Hardy, 15, from Bury, Nell Jones, 14, from Goostrey, Megan Hurley, 15, from Halewood, Merseyside, Eilidh MacLeod, 14, from the Scottish island of Barra, and Sorrell Leczkowski, 14, from Leeds.

Four students were also killed – Chloe Rutherford, 17, and Liam Allen-Curry, 19, from South Shields, Courtney Boyle, 19, from Gateshead and Georgina Callander, 18, from Chorley.