

INDIA BOMBS JAISH CAMP IN PAKISTAN'S BALAKOT

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Later in the day, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj met with foreign diplomats and spoke to Foreign Ministers of U.S., China, Singapore, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, briefing them about the operation.

Sources present at the briefing of diplomats told *The Hindu* that Ms. Swaraj stressed the point that India had only conducted a counter-terror strike on a training camp in Pakistan, and did not wish to “escalate” the situation further.

India received support for its decision from several countries including Australia and France who issued statements after the strikes had been announced.

“France recognises India’s legitimacy to ensure its security against cross-border terrorism and asks Pakistan to put an end to operations of terrorist groups established on its territory,” the spokesperson of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Incursion, says OIC

However the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned the IAF strikes, calling them an “Indian incursion and aerial violation.”

The criticism comes four days ahead of Ms. Swaraj’s scheduled inaugural speech at the OIC in UAE, India’s first appearance at the 57-nation grouping.

After briefing an all-party meeting, Ms. Swaraj said that “all present spoke in one voice to congratulate the IAF and promised support to all counter-terror measures taken by the government.”

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