

Singapore hotels ramp up security, no information of any new threat

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Hotels in Singapore are stepping up vigilance following the Jakarta blasts on Friday morning, Channel NewsAsia reported.

It said major hotels had raised security levels and were working closely with authorities here. Hotel staff are expected to monitor guest movements and report those taking pictures inside and outside the premises, as well as conduct additional checks on baggage and identities.

"Looking at what happened, there's a strong possibility that the terrorists or perpetrators actually checked in as guests. So obviously, that element needs to be looked at," said Mr Danny Chan, global risk assessment director at iJet, a private intelligence agency.

"The attacks in Jakarta this morning basically drive home the point that although those two hotels were relatively well-protected ... a militant network that's really determined and resourceful may succeed," said Associate Professor **Kumar Ramakrishna** of the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

However, experts say one challenge is to get the smaller local hotels to be more vigilant, as they do not usually devote as much resources to security measures as the global brand names do.

The Singapore Police Force said there was currently no information of any threat to Singapore, but it is in contact with the Indonesian authorities on the likely perpetrators, said spokesperson Inspector Ivan Choo.

Travellers have begun postponing trips to Indonesia, while some multinational corporations have reportedly imposed a travel ban to the country.

Meanwhile, three victims of foreign nationality were scheduled to fly into Singapore on Friday to seek advanced medical treatment for trauma injuries and burns.