

Manchester

Britain has arrested a “large part” of the network behind Manchester’s suicide bomb attack, police said yesterday, as the government came under fire for cutting police budgets and election campaigning resumed.

Eight suspects are currently in detention on UK soil in connection with the blast, for which the Islamic State group has claimed responsibility. While police in Libya have detained the father and brother of 22-year-old bomber Salman Abedi.

Mark Rowley, head of Britain’s counter-terrorism police, said police had got hold of “a large part of the network” linked to the atrocity in which seven children aged under 18 were among the 22 dead.

“We are very happy we’ve got our hands around some of the key players that we are concerned about but there’s still a little bit more to do,” he said.

Police said the eight men ranged in age from 18 to 38, including a 30-year-old arrested in the Moss Side area of Manchester in the early hours of Friday.

“I woke up because I heard the police shouting, they were shouting ‘Get down, it’s the police, hands on the ground, get on the ground,’” said local resident Anita Santonelli, who said she looked out to see around 10 armed police officers.

Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said it was the “responsibility” of governments to minimise the

People gather to lay flowers and messages of support in St Ann’s Square in Manchester



Manchester bomber’s terrorist links

1 Salman Abedi: Suicide bomber, 22, in Libya in early May. Flew back to Manchester via Istanbul and Dusseldorf on May 18, according to Der Tagesspiegel, citing German intelligence

2 May 23: Salman’s older brother, **Ismail Abedi**, is arrested in Chorlton

3 May 24: Two arrested in Wigan and Nuneaton

4 May 24: Armed police raid city-centre apartment block in Granby Row

5 May 24: Libyan security forces in Tripoli detain Salman’s father, **Ramadan Abedi**, and younger brother, **Hashem Abedi**. Ramadan fought against regime of **Muammar Gaddafi** during Libyan revolution in 2011

6 Hashem Abedi: Arrested for allegedly planning terrorist attack in Tripoli. Salman transferred €2,900 to Hashem on May 22

7 Abd al-Baset Azzouz: Bomb-maker – lived in Elsmore Road. Now in Libya

8 Raphael Hostey: Lived in Whalley Range. Key recruiter for so-called Islamic State – now dead

9 Jamshed Javeed: Lived in Levenshulme. Jailed for six years in 2015 for preparation of terrorist acts for IS in Syria

Monday, May 22, 21:33GMT: Suicide bomb kills 22 people as they are leaving Manchester Arena following Ariana Grande concert

May 25, Blackley: One man arrested

May 24, 26, Whalley Range, Moss Side: Two men arrested

May 24, Fallowfield: Three men arrested. Salman Abedi lived in Elsmore Road

Jun 2014, Chorlton: Twins **Salma** and **Zahra Halane** (below) travel to Syria after being radicalised online

Eastern Libya: Training camp for Al Qaeda-linked militants run by **Abd al-Baset Azzouz**

Islamic State: Forced out of Sirte in December 2016 – relocated around Bani Walid and Zalla

LIBYA 400km 250 miles

UNITED KINGDOM Manchester Wigan London

LIBYA Tripoli Misrata Sirte Zalla Bani Walid Eastern Libya

MEDITERRANEAN SEA Benghazi Derna

Sources: Der Tagesspiegel, Liverpool Echo, Manchester Evening News, Reuters Pictures: Associated Press, Facebook, handouts © GRAPHIC NEWS

risk of terror by giving police the funding they need after cuts made while Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May served as interior minister.

US ‘full responsibility’

Washington’s top diplomat Rex Tillerson also visited London yesterday in an expression of solidarity after Britain reacted furiously to leaks of sensitive details about

the investigation to US media.

“We take full responsibility for that and obviously regret that that happened,” Tillerson told reporters.

Britain briefly suspended intelligence-sharing with the United States on Thursday over the leaks, but Tillerson said the “special relationship” between the two countries would “withstand this particular unfortunate event”.

US President Donald Trump has threatened to prosecute those responsible for the “deeply troubling” security breach.

Hunting accomplices

May was at the G7 summit in Sicily yesterday where she emphasised the importance of tackling the spread of terror online by urging internet companies to do more to

remove extremist content.

“Make no mistake: the fight is moving from the battlefield to the internet,” she told the G7.

Manchester-born Abedi, a university dropout, grew up in a Libyan family that reportedly fled to the northwestern English city to escape the now-fallen regime of Libyan dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

Libyan officials said he and

his brother Hashem belonged to the Islamic State group, while their father Ramadan once belonged to a now-disbanded militant group with alleged ties to Al-Qaeda.

Libya said it was working closely with Britain to identify possible “terrorist networks” involved, while a British official said that Abedi had been on the intelligence radar before the massacre. (AFP)

Britain arrests ‘large part’ of attack network



An army bomb disposal unit is parked near Springfield Street, which has been evacuated in a police operation following a terror attack in Manchester