

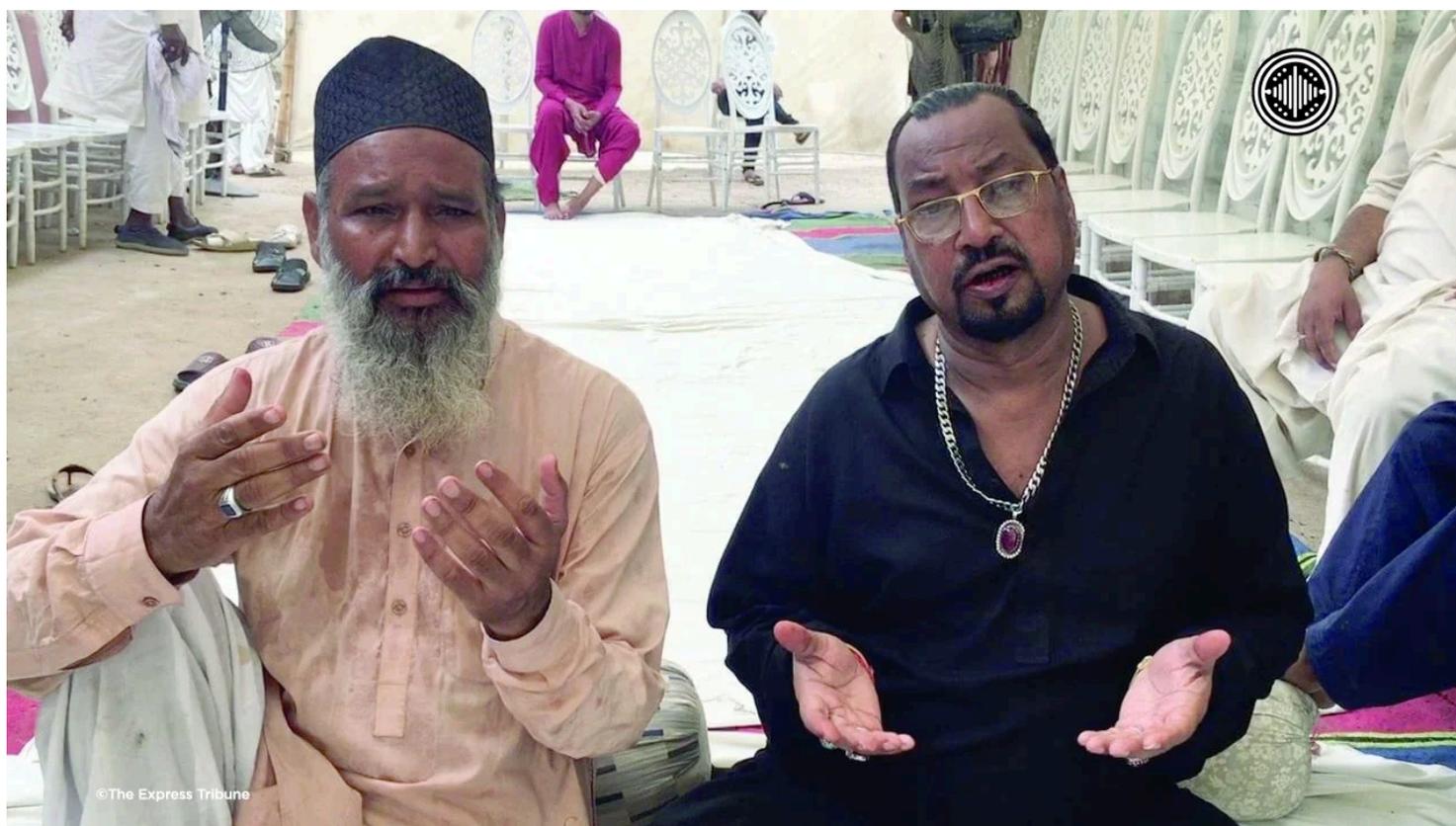
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Automatic Bus Doors Save Lives During Brutal Ambush on Sabri Qawwali Troupe in Balochistan

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– Categories: Crime



In one of the latest reminders of Pakistan's growing internal instability, a terrorist attack on a passenger bus in the Kalat district of Balochistan left three dead and over a dozen injured. Among the deceased were Ahmed Ali Sabri, a member of the famed Sabri qawwali ensemble, his son Raza Ali Sabri, and the group's guitarist, Asif. The incident unfolded as the troupe was traveling from Karachi to Quetta for a performance, with a brief stop in Khuzdar for a meal.

Eyewitness accounts report that shortly after the journey resumed, masked assailants opened fire on the vehicle from close range. The bus, packed with musicians and crew, was sprayed with bullets in what appeared to be a calculated ambush. However, one feature of the vehicle may have prevented the massacre from escalating further: the automatic doors. Due to a mechanical safety lock, the doors stayed shut during the chaos, stopping the gunmen from boarding and attacking the remaining passengers at close quarters.

The driver, wounded but alert, managed to steer the vehicle off the main road and into nearby woodland. This move not only disoriented the attackers but brought the vehicle to a halt behind natural cover, allowing survivors a moment of protection until the firing ceased.

Tragically, Raza Ali Sabri, just 26 and a new father, was asleep when he was fatally shot. His father and fellow musician, Ahmed Ali Sabri, succumbed to his injuries soon after. Asif, the group's guitarist, also died from wounds sustained during the attack. According to relatives, all three men were primary providers for their families.

The Kalat attack once again draws attention to the deteriorating security situation in regions like Balochistan, where law enforcement remains either under-resourced or unwilling to confront increasingly emboldened militant elements. This region, long plagued by separatist violence and sectarian attacks, has seen an uptick in deadly assaults over the past year. The ongoing instability has disproportionately affected cultural figures and artists, soft targets who continue to operate with minimal protection or state support.