

London 2012 Olympics: 'Dirty bomb' warning

By Tom Knight in Beijing

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The [London Olympics](#) face the threat of being targeted by terrorists using "dirty bombs", according to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

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The agency claim that the threat of radioactive materials being unleashed at Olympic venues also exists for the Beijing Games, which open here on Aug 8.

advertisement The IAEA are carrying out exercises in Beijing this week and Dr Anita Nilsson, their head of nuclear security, told the BBC that the agency were acting on intelligence that terrorists were actively seeking the components of a "dirty bomb."

She added: "There is a threat that these materials could be used. There is a major shift in threat perception over the last five to 10 years. And we have to take that into account, whether it is the Olympic Games in Beijing or London."

Meanwhile, at the conclusion of the three days of official mourning for victims of the earthquake in the Sichuan Province, Beijing resumes its programme of Olympic test events today in the National Stadium.

It is expected that the £250 million, 90,000-seat stadium will be full for only one of the four days of events, when the country's biggest sporting star, the Olympic and world champion Liu Xiang, races in the final of the 110-metre hurdles on Saturday.

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