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Suspected Car Bomb Explodes in Simferopol

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A powerful explosion ripped through a car in the Crimean city of Simferopol, injuring the driver and shattering the windows of a nearby apartment building, a news report said.

The blast occurred when the car was pulling into a neighborhood with a large Crimean Tatar population, Krym.Realii news portal reported Wednesday, but there was no immediate indication that the explosion was politically or ethnically motivated.

The driver, a local resident, managed to get out of the car before the flames gutted the vehicle but suffered severe burns and was hospitalized, the report said.

Police have opened an investigation on charges of attempted murder and illegal possession of explosives, Itar-Tass reported, citing a spokesman for Crimea's branch of the Investigative Committee.

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