

UK terror alert

Britain went on terror alert following the discovery of a makeshift laboratory for concocting the deadly poison ricin. Six men were arrested after traces of the toxin were found in a north London apartment



Ricin: Extracted from beans of castor oil plant – 6,000 times more poisonous than cyanide

Fatal dose: Seventy micrograms can kill an adult. Equivalent to single grain of salt. Inhibits protein synthesis causing cell death

Symptoms: Fever, chest tightness, cough, difficulty in breathing, nausea, arthralgia (pain in joints) in 4-8 hours after inhalation. Severe respiratory distress and death in 36-72 hours

Treatment: No antidote available