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Four gunmen killed and nine arrested after Mumbai terrorist attacks

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Photo gallery: Mumbai attacks

Four gunmen were killed by police and nine suspected terrorists were arrested after a series of attacks in Mumbai, police have said.

"We have shot dead four terrorists and managed to arrest nine suspected terrorists," said P.D. Ghadge, a police officer at Mumbai's central control room.

The violent terrorist attacks in Mumbai have left 80 people dead and at least 250 injured, hostages, including Westerners have been taken at two of the major cities luxury hotels.

"Many people are injured and the toll will go up" said Mr Gadge.

According to the Times of India, which interviewed a hostage who managed to escape, there are 15 hostages, 7 of whom are westerners, inside the Taj Hotel in central Mumbai.

A British witness says those with UK and US passports were being targeted by the attackers.

Top ranking policeman A.N. Roy described the attack as a "terror strike".

Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil said 65 army commandos and 200 navy commandos were being rushed to Mumbai to try and restore order and flush out the attackers.

Responsibility for the attacks has been claimed by an unknown outfit calling itself Deccan Mujahideen, which sent an email to news organisations.

The attacks began at 10.33am at Chatrapathi Shivaji Terminus (CST), Mumbai's main station. Ten people were killed in the station alone as gunmen fired shots and threw grenades.

Shootings took place in at least seven different locations and seemed designed to concentrate on areas popular with tourists.

The attack sites included the station, the Taj and Oberoi hotels, a hospital and Leopold's Cafe; a restaurant popular with travellers. A car bomb in a taxi killed three people

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has confirmed that there are 47 New Zealanders registered as being in Mumbai although it is not known whether any have been killed, injured or taken hostage.

The New Zealand High Commission is trying to make contact with New Zealanders for whom they have contact details.

Sunrise contributor Steve Simms was only two hundred metres away from the Taj Hotel when the attackers struck.

From the safety of his hotel room he described this morning's events to 3 News.

"There's terrorists running around inside the Mumbai hotels right now. I'm hearing guns firing all over the place at the moment and there's a few grenades going off."

Mr Simms said he had heard reports of an attack on a local hospital.

The attacks have been condemned by President Bush and the EU.

US President-elect Barack Obama condemned a series of attacks in India's financial capital Mumbai on Wednesday in which gunmen killed at least 80 people.

"These coordinated attacks on innocent civilians demonstrate the grave and urgent threat of terrorism. The United States must continue to strengthen our partnerships with India and nations around the world to root out and destroy terrorist networks," said Obama's chief national security spokesperson, Brooke Anderson, said in a statement.

Mr Roy said this morning that police were continuing to battle the gunmen.

"The terrorists have used automatic weapons and in some places grenades have been lobbed, the encounters are still going on [this morning] and we are trying to overpower them," he said.

The terrorists are still at large in Mumbai.

New Zealanders concerned about family members in Mumbai should try to make contact with them first. Those with concerns about the wellbeing of relatives may call the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 04 439 8000, with as many contact details as possible.



Do you know anyone caught up in the attacks?
Please click here to let us know. Alternatively, you
can phone us on **0800 TV3 NEWS**.