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'When smoke filled their rooms, hostages huddled in passages'

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MUMBAI: Despite the ordeal that he had just been through, investment consultant, Amit Gupta, was calm and composed. He was rescued from [the Trident](#) by National Security Guards on Friday evening. Gupta had checked into the hotel as a guest, and was looked up in his room for 41 hours, as terrorists took control of the building. "We knew that the terrorists were all around us," Gupta said. He was holed up in the 17th floor of the Trident.

"But I didn't see them. I didn't dare step out of the room. What I do know about the terrorists is from what the NSG personnel told us. They were young, in their late 20s. One of the terrorists had lost all five fingers on one his hands. We could make out that grenades were being used from the deafening sounds." The information came out in a rush, as [Gupta](#) still couldn't believe that he was free.

Gupta, who works with [Fidelity Investments](#), said that most of the hostages were confined to their rooms and were not allowed to leave. "But some of the rooms had started filling up with smoke from the grenades. So, occupants of those rooms started coming out and huddling in [the passages](#) outside." Gupta added there were several bodies were found on the 18th floor.

"After [the NSG](#) rescued us, we were all kept in one room, while the dead were taken away. There's flooding in the hotel corridors because of the water sprayed by the fire brigade, while attempting to control the flames and smoke."

Gupta said he had informed his family of his safety. They were waiting outside the hotel for to meet him. "I'm just glad it's all over," he said quietly.

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