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Firing and blast near CST station

By: Rita Ghose **Date:** 2008-11-28 **Place:** Mumbai

As I was on my way to Colaba Causeway with our senior photographer Pradeep Diwar we stopped near VT station where a large number of people were being evacuated.

We got down from the vehicle and heard firing inside the railway station.

According to a commuter

who was evacuated out of the station, two gunmen with large gunny bags were shooting rounds randomly in every direction.



The gunmen were getting closer and closer to the exits as old women, children and others were scrambling to get the farthest away from the station. As the firing worsened, Pradeep and I were stuck amidst the firing along with another cameraman and three other civilians.

We crawled ourselves to a safe spot right outside a tunnel near the

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First look from Brabudhau's next



main entrance of VT station.

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We lay on the side of the road right on top of a gutter. Just as we got comfortable a bomb exploded right outside the BMC office, about 5 metres away. Thankfully it was just a small blast and we were all unharmed. We tried to stay as still as possible, as our phones rang of the hook with loved ones being concerned of our safety. Every time the phone rang or someone whispered on the phone the terrorists would fire that direction. An hour, flat on the road, we were all getting edgy.

Police vans and cars passed us by, being too afraid to stop for us. A few bullets were fired right bove our heads and the debri form the wall had fallen upon us. After many prayers and waiting for help, we finally caught the attention of Ramesh Sakaram Borekar of Sion-chunnabathi police who braved to come from safe zone to the area where we are. He helped us crawl on our knees to safety. According to the police we were the last batch of civilians to be taken out of the VT station area at 11.30 pm.

PIC/Vishal Kelkar

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