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ABC News Transcript

November 26, 2008 Wednesday**SHOW:** WORLD NEWS WITH CHARLES GIBSON 6:30 PM EST

TERROR ATTACKS; UNDER ATTACK

ANCHORS: GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS**REPORTERS:** NICK SCHIFRIN (NEW DELHI, INDIA)**LENGTH:** 433 words

GRAPHICS: TERROR ATTACKS

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS (ABC NEWS)

(Off-camera) Good evening. We begin with a major terrorist attack. Westerners were the target. It was just after 10:00 at night in Mumbai, India's largest city. Cafes and hotels popular with Americans and Europeans were bustling.

GRAPHICS: INDIA

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Suddenly, teams armed with automatic weapons and grenades launched coordinated attacks on hotels, restaurants and the city's main train station.

GRAPHICS: **MUMBAI ATTACKS**

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Scores were killed and wounded. Some with western passports were rounded up. Hours after the attack began, the Taj Mahal Hotel, one of the city's most famous landmarks, burst into flames. It's where a number of tourists, we don't know exactly how many, were being held hostage. Nick Schifrin reports from India tonight.

NICK SCHIFRIN (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) Tonight, terrorists took over southern Mumbai. Chaos in the streets in one of the most popular areas for tourists. Gun fire sprayed at one of the most crowded restaurant always filled with westerners.

REPORTER (INDIA)

You heard a big blast outside, right now, inside the Taj hotel.

NICK SCHIFRIN (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) And a bold assault with guns and grenades on the Taj Mahal Hotel, one of the county's most famous landmarks. Outside, the 565-room hotel, spectators ducked for cover. Some were shot, as casualties were brought out on makeshift stretchers. Inside, the attackers looked for westerners.

PEDESTRIAN (MUMBAI)

There was a lot of smoke and they - I guess there were bombs of some sort, yeah.

REPORTER (INDIA)

What were they saying? They demanded something?

PEDESTRIAN (MUMBAI)

They wanted to, they wanted anyone with British or American passports. Saying anyone who had a British or American passport, they wanted to know.

GRAPHICS: INDIA

NICK SCHIFRIN (ABC NEWS)

(Voiceover) In all, at least seven attacks across a three square mile area, one of the wealthiest parts of Mumbai, almost all attacks in places where westerners and the wealthy tend to visit. One explosion took place miles away near the airport. When the attack took place, this man says, the whole building shook. Tonight, as the Taj Mahal Hotel burned, army commanders were brought in to secure it. Rescue teams managed to free some of the hostages. Police released a photo of one suspected attacker. And a group calling itself the Deccan Mujahadin said it carried out the killings. Mumbai has been attacked before, but westerners have never been targeted in this way on this large a scale. Nick Schifrin, ABC News, New Delhi.

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