

Sprache auswählen

Ausschlussklausel

Powered by Google Übersetzer



Agence France Presse -- English

**November** 27, 2008 Thursday 6:17 AM GMT

## 100 killed, foreigners taken hostage in **Mumbai attacks**

**BYLINE:** Phil Hazlewood**LENGTH:** 850 words**DATELINE:** MUMBAI, Nov 27 2008

Army commandos laid siege Thursday to two luxury hotels in Mumbai where gunmen held foreign guests hostage as part of coordinated attacks across India's financial capital that left up to 100 dead.

An Islamist group calling itself the "Deccan Mujahedeen" said it carried out the attacks late Wednesday on the Taj Mahal and Oberoi Trident hotels, and eight other locations, including the main train station, a hospital and a popular restaurant.

One of the gunmen holed up in the Trident told the India TV channel by phone that the little-known terror outfit wanted an end to the persecution of Indian Muslims and the release of all fellow Islamic militants detained in India.

"Muslims in India should not be persecuted. We love this as our country but when our mothers and sisters were being killed, where was everybody?" he said from inside the hotel, which was surrounded by army commandos.

Maharashtra state's Director General of Police A N Roy said around 100 people were killed in the precisely targeted assaults by small groups of gunmen armed with AK-47s and grenades that began around 10:30 pm (1700 GMT).

Up to 300 other people were also reported wounded.

Some foreign tourists were reported to be among the dead, although there was no official confirmation about how many.

Witnesses said the gunmen had specifically chosen US and British citizens to take hostage.

Another siege was in progress at Nariman House, an office building that houses a Jewish centre. The chairman of the Indian Jewish Federation, Jonathan Solomon, said a rabbi and his family was being held inside by gunmen.

Frequent bursts of gunfire in and around the two five-star hotels continued to be heard through Thursday morning, as south Mumbai, including the normally thriving main business hub between the two scenes, was shut down.

The main Bombay Stock Exchange, itself hit by a terror attack in 1993, was also closed, as were shops, schools and businesses.

An official told AFP that the England cricket team had also decided to abandon their tour of India and return home following the attacks.

Army commandos stormed the Taj under the cover of night, apparently leading to the release of some guests inside, with television footage showing people being shepherded out of the building.

Shortly afterwards, the upper floors of the landmark hotel became engulfed in flames.

Police said two gunmen were shot dead, but two more were still believed to be holed up inside the hotel. Explosions and gunfire were still being heard at 9:00 am.

Fire engines were brought in to rescue trapped guests through their windows.

"We have one man who has a bullet wound in his stomach," one woman told a TV channel by phone from a room where she was hunkered down with around 35 other guests.

There was also a stand-off at the Oberoi Trident hotel, where at least two gunmen were believed to be holding out with around half-a-dozen hostages.

Earlier, several men armed with AK-47 rifles had stormed into the passenger hall of Mumbai's main Chhatrapati Shivaji railway station, firing indiscriminately and throwing grenades.

Firing was also reported at Cama Hospital in south Mumbai, and three people were reported killed in what police called a "bomb blast" in a taxi in the southeast of the city.

One British guest at the Taj, Rakesh Patel, said he had been among a dozen people herded together by two heavily armed men and taken up to the hotel's upper floors.

"They were very young, like boys really, wearing jeans and T-shirts," the guest said.

"They said they wanted anyone with British and American passports and then they took us up the stairs. I think they wanted to take us to the roof," he said, adding that he and another hostage managed to escape on the 18th floor.

British businessman Alex Chamberlain told the Sky network that similar national profiling had been conducted by the gunmen in the Oberoi.

"They told everybody to stop and put their hands up and asked if there were any British or Americans. My friend said to me, 'don't be a hero, don't say you are British'," Chamberlain said.

One Japanese was among the dead, the foreign ministry in Tokyo said, while at least two Australians were injured.

Indian President Pratibha Patil, in Vietnam on an official visit, described the attack as "the work of those who have no regard for human life."

The United States and Britain led global condemnation, with Washington describing the attacks as "horrific", and US president-elect Barack Obama pledging to work with India to "root out and destroy terrorist networks".

Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the "outrageous" attacks would be met with a "vigorous response".

India has witnessed a wave of coordinated attacks in recent months.

A little-known Islamic group, the Islamic Security Force-Indian Mujahedeen, claimed responsibility for serial blasts last month in India's northeast state of Assam that claimed nearly 80 lives.

Six weeks earlier, the capital New Delhi had been hit by a series of bombs in crowded markets that left more than 20 dead. Those blasts were claimed by a group calling itself the Indian Mujahedeen.

sal-phz/sas/pch

**LOAD-DATE:** November 28, 2008

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

Copyright 2008 Agence France Presse  
All Rights Reserved

---

Suchbegriffe [(mumbai attacks)] (1713)

Quelle ⓘ [Agence France Presse - English]

Anzeige Volltext

Sortierung Älteste zuerst

Datum/Zeit 13 Mai 2013 18:50:34

⏪ ⏩ 121 von 1713 ⏪ ⏩

[Nach oben](#)



[Über LexisNexis](#)

[Allgemeine Vertragsbedingungen \(AVB\)](#)

[Privacy & Cookies Policy \(Datenschutz\)](#)

[Mein Nutzernamen](#)

Copyright © 2013 LexisNexis . Alle Rechte vorbehalten.