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Sydney woman flying home

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A Sydney woman who spent more than 16 hours cowering in a hotel room on the same floor that terrorists were holding hostages is flying home today.

Debra Bayne, from Pyrmont, is due to arrive in Sydney tonight after police broke down the door of her hotel room, on the 19th floor of the Oberoi Trident, where she was hiding with another Sydney man, Drew Dickson.

The pair had spent more than 16 hours together just doors away from where gunmen have killed "countless people", according to two hostages from Turkey who were freed because they were Muslim.

Mr Dickson messaged his colleague, Russell Byrne, after Indian police took the pair to a safe room in the hotel about 11.30pm AEDT.

"I got a text message last night saying 'out and safe'. That's all it said," Mr Byrne said.

Ms Bayne told her daughter Deirdre Wilcock in Canada and ex-husband, Ralph Wilcock, that the pair thought police were terrorists when they broke in.

"They had their room barricaded off and people were trying to bust in," Ms Wilcock said.

"They didn't know it was police trying to get in. Eventually the police threw in a device and smoked them out. They thought they were a goner; they thought it was the terrorists."

Ms Bayne later told her daughter the police had thrown in five grenades, tear gas and smoke bombs.

They were then taken to a safe room in which Indian police were keeping 16 other people and evacuated them when they felt the coast was clear.

Mr Wilcock said his ex-wife was on a plane to Singapore before flying back into Sydney tonight.

"She is so lucky to be alive, not lucky, it's a miracle she's alive really," he said from Sydney this morning.

Earlier in the siege Ms Bayne, the managing director of software company Debraneys, could hear gunshots nearby and explosions from her room in a Oberoi Trident hotel, her daughter says.

"I spoke to her 30 seconds ago ... the army has left the hotel because they thought the situation was under control, but it's evidently not," Ms Wilcock said.

At that stage Indian TV channel IBN CNN were reporting that terrorists were holding five foreign hostages on the 19th floor and had been engaged in fierce gun battles with Indian commandos.

"She's OK," Ms Wilcock said at the time. "She's very, very tired and very scared because of the shooting ... no one knows what's going on.

"She's inside her hotel room, staying low and not going anywhere near the window.

"I would rather not ring her just in case the people are next door. I don't want her to be found [while] making noise. She's keeping as quiet as she can. The lights are out."

Ms Bayne was forced to rely on text messages from family and friends in India, some whom were journalists, to find out what was happening at the hotel.

Another member of the NSW trade mission is still hiding in his hotel room bathroom.

A colleague in Queensland, Tony Hope, said the man was text messaging his wife all night and was in reasonable spirits. But he was slowly going through the contents of the room's mini bar and was worried food supplies would run out.

"He's obviously holed up making no noise because they're still taking hostages," colleague Neil Hansford said.

"He was smart enough that when he looked outside and saw all the smoke he took the odds and got into the bathroom and locked himself inside.

"He's well-hidden ... he's leaving his phone on but if somebody sends him an email or calls it beeps, so we're quite worried."

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