

# Israelis taken hostage at Nariman House

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Nariman House in Colaba, which hosts the Jewish 'Chabad House', is the only private building targeted in Wednesday's terror attack. Six armed terrorists stormed into the six-storey building, firing indiscriminately. They also lobbed grenades and took seven Jews, including a two-year-old boy, hostage.

Two of the Indian Jews — Sandra Samuel and Zakir Hussein — both helpers at the centre, managed to flee with the baby, Moshe, on Thursday morning. No information was available on the condition of the Israeli hostages — Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg, wife Rivki, and two others.

Ehud Raz, chief security officer with the Israeli consulate in Mumbai, spent the entire day shuttling between Colaba police station and Nariman House, trying to gather information on rescue efforts. "Israelis and Jews are under threat everywhere," Raz told DNA. "Chabad House being a symbol of Israel became a target (of terrorism)."

'Chabad', a Jewish organisation, runs a network of centres around the world, giving Israelis and other Jewish travellers a place to pray, eat kosher food and celebrate Jewish holidays.

Locals said firing started at Nariman House at 9.45 pm on Wednesday. Sanjay Bhasme, 40, who lives in a building behind Nariman House, said he notified the police after the shooting began, but they took more than 30 minutes to arrive. Despite rumours of the terrorists being armed with a rocket launcher, along with grenades, neighbouring buildings in the congested locality were not evacuated.



What do you think about this?

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