

Hostage situation still prevails at the Nariman House

Sayli Udas Mankikar/ Kanchan Chaudhari, Hindustan Times, Mumbai | Updated: Nov 27, 2008 14:58 IST

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A hostage situation still prevails at the Nariman House; a Jewish residential complex based in the heart of the up market Colaba area in South Mumbai.

This building also known, as the 'Chabad House' is the city's Jewish Chabad-Lubavitch center is located about 500 meters away from the Taj Mahal hotel where the terrorist attack took place on Wednesday night.

Of the latest, one terrorist has been injured in Nariman House a little past noon, police said suspecting the presence of about 3-5 terrorists still present in the complex. There was a heavy exchange of fire was on between the two sides in which the terrorist got injured, but is still inside the building.

According to an eye witness Hanif Shaikh, a resident of a nearby building, at around 9.20 pm on Wednesday, about four men Nariman house and hurled grenade at a nearby petrol pump. After destroying the façade of the station the terrorists ran into Nariman House building at around 10 pm before which they shot into the air killing two members of a Muslim family in the nearby 'Colaba Court' building.

After remaining silent through the night, the terrorists surfaced again at around 7am in the morning and held people hostage.

As per latest information five families are held as hostage in the building, while 8 were killed in the fire exchange.

A statement issued by the Jewish Chabad-Lubavitch the local rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg and his wife Rivka, who live at the Chabad House have been unreachable following the attacks.

"Chabad-Lubavitch representatives in New York and Israel are working alongside the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the US Consulate in Mumbai and a volunteer team of local residents to ascertain the well being of the Holtzbergs and other Jews in the area," the official statement released in the Jewish journal reads.

Number of casualties: 8

People held hostage: Approximately 5 families

Number of terrorists- About 3-5

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