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# Television footage shows hostages freed from Jewish centre complex

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Seven hostages have been rescued from a building that houses a Jewish centre in Mumbai that was attacked by Islamist gunmen, Indian security officials said tonight.

The nationalities of those freed was not given, although television pictures of a group being led away from the complex appeared to show some foreigners.

"We've recovered seven hostages from the complex. Sweeping operations are ongoing," a security official told reporters outside the Nariman building, a residential-business complex in central Mumbai.

At least half a dozen people, including a rabbi and his wife, had been held at the centre run by Chabad Lubavitch, an ultra-Orthodox Jewish group.

Sandra Samuel, a worker at the centre, managed to flee the building with the couple's two-year-old son, Moshe, this morning.



Rabbi Gabriel Holtzberg and his wife Rivki, who were

taken hostage by the Mumbai terrorists. Photograph: AP

"I took the child, I just grabbed the baby and ran out," said Samuel, 44, who has worked as a cook at the centre for five years.

She said the boy was safe but his blood-soaked clothes indicated others had been hurt. As she ran out she saw four people lying on the floor, apparently unconscious.

The family of the Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg said they knew nothing of he and his wife, Rivki, other than reports of the boy's rescue.

A spokesman in Israel, Moni Ender, said there were eight people in the house including the Holtzbergs.

"We are praying that everything will be OK. We are still in a state of uncertainty," said Rivki's father, Rabbi Shimon Rosenberg.

After praying together at Rosenberg's home in the northern Israeli town of Afula, family members were expected to head to India. Rabbi Holtzberg is the main representative at the centre. Gunmen stormed the house as part of a series of attacks across Mumbai late yesterday that killed more than 100 people.

Chabad, based in Brooklyn, New York, runs centres around the world giving Israelis and other Jewish travellers a place to pray, eat kosher food and celebrate Jewish holidays.

"We have no information other than the grandson managed to get out alive and we hope our daughter and her husband will be OK," said Rosenberg. "They have been in Mumbai for five years and their whole cause is to do good deeds for people."

He said he had spoken to his daughter on Wednesday and "everything was normal".

Dozens of Indian commandos surrounded the five-storey building, where heavy curtains hung behind windows broken by gunfire. Outside, thousands of people stood in the narrow alleyways to watch the standoff.

Rabbi Zalman Shmotkin, a spokesman for the Lubavitch movement in New York, said the gunmen seized a police vehicle and used it to get access to the Chabad building, which houses an education centre, a synagogue and a drug prevention clinic.



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