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National News

## Aussie dead await return home after Mumbai massacre

- by: **By Justin Vallejo in Mumbai**
- From: The Daily Telegraph
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Overcome by grief: Mourning the death of Haresh Gohil, murdered by gunmen in Mumbai. Also killed was Aussie Brett Taylor (top left) while yesterday candles (bottom left) burned for the dead outside the Taj Mahal Hotel

Source: The Daily Telegraph

**IT'S 1pm in the morgue of Mumbai's J.J. Hospital, less than an hour after the last terrorist met his bloody end.**

The bodies are still being brought in by ambulance as barely controlled chaos engulfs the small outpost of buildings at one end of the hospital.

While the world's eyes are still on images of the burning **Taj Mahal Hotel** (<http://www.tajhotels.com/Luxury/The%20Taj%20Mahal%20Hotel,NEW%20DELHI/default.htm>), Mumbai families wait to find out what has become of loved ones.

This is where the body of Australian **Brett Taylor** (<http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,24718331-5018489,00.html>) will rest until he is brought home.

**Special section: Photos, video, full coverage** (<http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/index/0,,5018489,00.html>)

And so ended the city-wide siege that began almost three days earlier when a boat named Kubar was stolen from fisherman Vinod Masani and his brother Hiralal.

That boat landed at the Gateway port opposite the Taj Mahal Hotel - and bloody terror erupted.

Yesterday the streets were still littered with the blood, clothes and shoes of victims. The upper floors of the hotel were a smouldering wreck, fodder for tourists taking photos.

But it wasn't a camera moment for Taj guest Paul Guest, who remembered fleeing through the devastation.

When armed men banged down his door and he thought he was going to die, he responded as only he could.

"I said to him, 'Who the f... are you?' " Mr Guest said.

"I thought it was a pretty nervous terrorist who had a black balaclava on. It was like slow motion. There's a gun pointed at my chest, I'm going to be shot. Then I thought, 'What if it hurts?' When he said he was police I could have kissed him."

Mr Guest left Mumbai for Melbourne as soon as he could. All across the city Australian tourists were fleeing the destruction.

Shiobhan O'Hanlon and her mother Linda Williams were holed up in their hotel room. They left after the danger was all over to immediately fly home to Sydney.

"We were safe but it was like cabin fever. We're leaving straight away," she said.

It's not a good time to be a Westerner in Mumbai.

Sydney artist William Arthur arrived just after the attack, not deterred by the threat of further violence. As he walked past the **Leopold Cafe** (<http://www.leopoldcafe.com/>), where Kate Anstee and her boyfriend David Coker were injured, the eyes of the locals tracked his every step.

"Everyone's smiling at me and being really friendly, but not in a good way," Mr Arthur said.

"It's like, he's that poor Westerner and they're thinking, 'What are you doing here, why aren't you running away like everyone else'."

It won't last, but now there is no trademark Indian traffic gridlock around Leopold Cafe and the other targets, Nariman House, Metro Cinema, Oberoi Hotel.

Just more onlookers. In India, terrorism is a spectator sport.

At 5.30am the morning after special forces troops cleared Nariman House, locals were still sightseeing as the clean up continued.

In the early morning they were beaten away with sticks by police so ambulances carrying more bodies could leave for St Georges Hospital.

This was the first point of call for foreigners and locals checking the list of names and see who went where - the morgue or another hospital.

"Death due to fire - arm injuries. Bodies sent to J.J Hospital for autopsy" read the top on one list, under which were "Austeratiys" Brett Taylor and another supposedly Australian man named Michael Stert.

There was no sign of missing Australian Doug Markell, who is feared dead.

Ravi Earnest, a Catholic priest from the Nirmala Niketan College of Social Welfare, was posted to the hospital to help distressed relatives of the killed and injured.

"It has been very hard for Australians here, they are upset, and we help when we can," Father Earnest said.

"I tell them to be safe, be careful. It's over now but we don't know if it's safe for everyone and for how long. It's a very dangerous time to be walking the streets of Mumbai."

It's a view shared by Australian High Commissioner to India John McCarthy, who is in charge of diplomatic relations in India.

"Australians should not be in Mumbai at this time. Clearly this is a city under major strain," he said.

"We do not know the number of Australians who might be among the dead in those hotels."

Mr McCarthy has been working out of the Australian Consulate in Marker Chambers at Nariman Point, little more than a couple of small offices for a trade delegation.

This is where Australians have been coming for help to get as far away from Mumbai as possible.

But for some, there will be a few days yet checking the hospitals for signs of missing family members.

Back at J.J. Hospital morgue, there is still no sign of Doug Markell. But there is Michael Stuart Moss, listed as an Australian but actually Canadian.

Here the confusion, like that at the morgue, is the terrorist's currency, and in the financial district of Mumbai it is their economic boom time.

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