



Two killed in UK synagogue attack

Two people were killed and three wounded in a car and stabbing attack outside a Manchester synagogue

● Three seriously wounded

● Suspect shot dead by police

AFP | Washington

Two people were killed yesterday and three badly wounded outside a packed synagogue in Manchester in a car and stabbing attack, with the suspect believed shot dead by UK police.

As the Jewish community marked the holiday of Yom Kippur in the northwestern city, police were called to the incident, activating a national terrorism-response protocol.

The attack struck days ahead of the second anniversary of Hamas's October 7, 2023 raids on Israel which sparked a fierce offensive in Gaza, inflaming passions in Britain.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer swiftly condemned the attack as "horrific", and announced security was being boosted at UK synagogues.

He left a European political summit in Denmark early to chair an emergency security meeting in London.

King Charles III said he and Queen Camilla were "deeply shocked and saddened to learn



Members of the Armed Forces prepare a bomb disposal robot inside a Police cordon outside Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation synagogue in Crumpsall, north Manchester

of the horrific attack in Manchester, especially on such a significant day for the Jewish community".

Greater Manchester Police declared a "major incident" shortly after 9:30 am (0830 GMT) after officers were called to the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in the Crumpsall neighbourhood.

The force initially said paramedics were treating four people for "injuries caused by both the vehicle and stab wounds" while

confirming firearms officers had shot one man "believed to be the offender".

Within hours, it announced two people had died and the suspected offender shot by officers was "also believed to be deceased".

Police said the death could not be confirmed due to "suspicious items on his person", noting a bomb disposal unit was at the scene.

Three people were also in a "serious condition", police added.

ed.

'Appalled'

Starmer said he was appalled and pledged to "do everything to keep our Jewish community safe".

"The fact that this has taken place on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, makes it all the more horrific," he added.

Israel's embassy in the UK said it was "abhorrent and deeply distressing" that "such an act of

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The attack occurred on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, while the synagogue was packed with worshippers marking the holiday

violence should be perpetrated on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar".

"The safety and security of Jewish communities in the United Kingdom must be guaranteed," it added on X.

Police said officers first responded to calls from the public about a car driving into people outside the synagogue as well as reports that a security guard had been attacked with a knife.

A witness told BBC Radio he saw police shooting a man after a car crash.

"They give him a couple of warnings, he didn't listen until they opened fire," he said.

"He went down on the floor, and then he started getting back up, and then they shot him again."



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TWEETS

01



Sustainable peace & sustainable development go hand-in-hand. Around the world, we see how poverty breeds despair, despair fuels unrest & unrest tears at the fabric of societies feeding mistrust, fear & violence. This is a time of choosing. We must choose to invest in peace.

@antonioguterres

02



This morning's attack is absolutely shocking. I'm on my way back to London to chair an emergency meeting, and additional police assets are being deployed to synagogues across the country. We will do everything we can to keep our Jewish community safe.

@Keir_Starmer

03



Leaders from across Europe gathered to make our continent stronger and more secure. Thank you, @Statsmin Mette Frederiksen, for hosting us in Copenhagen for the 7th #EPC meeting.

@eucopresident

04



The European Political Community meets in Copenhagen at a critical moment for our continent. This is the time to strengthen Europe's security, stability and resilience. And to deepen political and economic cooperation with our closest friends and partners.

@EP_President

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Morocco set for fresh protests after demonstrators killed



Members of the security forces remove debris near vehicles set on fire during a youth-led demonstration

AFP | Rabat

Morocco was bracing itself yesterday for a sixth night of protests over corruption and public spending, a day after sporadic clashes with security forces turned deadly and two demonstrators were killed in Agadir in the country's south.

The demonstrations across the usually stable North African kingdom have been fuelled by anger over social inequality as Morocco pushes forward major infrastructure projects to host the Africa Cup of Nations next month and the 2030 World Cup.

"We don't want the World Cup, health is a priority" and "we have stadiums, but what about hospitals?" protesters

have chanted during the demonstrations that erupted Saturday with spates of violence in some cities.

The protests, which have focused on public health services and education also gained momentum last month following reports of the deaths of eight pregnant women at a public hospital in Agadir.

The protests were called by the group GenZ 212, a group formed around the online messaging platform Discord, and whose organisers remain unknown.

GenZ 212 has urged demonstrators not to turn to violence, announcing yesterday further "peaceful protests will be organised today, as part of a civilised and responsible expression of our demands".

No more signs of life in Indonesia school collapse: rescuers

● 59 people still missing and feared dead

● Five confirmed dead, five rescued Wednesday

AFP | Sidoarjo

Rescuers detected "no more signs of life" at a collapsed Indonesian school where 59 people were believed missing days after it gave way, an official said yesterday, raising fears no more survivors would be found.

Part of the multi-storey



Rescue personnel walk in a cordoned-off area at the Al Khoziny Islamic boarding school in Sidoarjo

boarding school on the main island of Java collapsed suddenly on Monday as students gathered for afternoon prayers.

Five people have since been confirmed dead and 59 people were still feared buried under the rubble after days of rescue operations.

"We used high-tech equipment like thermal drones, and, scientifically, there were no more signs of life," said Suharyanto, the head of Indonesia's disaster mitigation agency.

Distraught families waited anxiously near the site for news of their loved ones. Many burst into tears upon hearing there

were no signs of life, and one woman fainted, AFP journalists saw.

Residents near the school opened their homes to families as they waited, while charities set up posts offering food and drink.

"I've been here since day one. I am hoping for the best news, that my brother survives. I am still hopeful," said Maulana Bayu Rizky Pratama, whose 17-year-old brother is missing.

"It's been four days, I hope my brother will be found soon. I feel sad thinking of him being down there for four days," the 28-year-old said.

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Rescuers will now attempt a complex recovery operation by digging an underground tunnel only about 60 centimeters (25 inches) wide to access the spots where the remaining victims are believed to be trapped