

CBS Mornings

12/15/25

7:00:54 a.m. [TEASE]

16 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Australia Terror Attack]

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER ANTHONY ALBANESE (Labor): An act of antisemitism, an act of terrorism on our shores.

TONY DOKOUPIL: A father and son storm a Hanukkah celebration at an Australian beach killing 15 people. How a courageous bystander disarmed one of the attackers.

COUSIN OF AHMED AL AHMED: He is a hero. Hundred percent, he is a hero.

(...)

7:10:29 a.m.

2 minutes and 44 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: 15 Killed in Attack on Australia Hanukkah Festival]

NATE BURLESON: Now to Australia, which is reeling from a deadly terror attack on Jews celebrating the opening night of Hanukkah. It was the country's worst mass shooting in nearly 30 years. A festival at Sydney's famous Bondi Beach turned into chaos when two gunmen opened fire killing at least 15 and injuring dozens more. The suspects are a man born in Pakistan and his son born in Australia. Anna Coren is near the scene. Anna, good morning.

ANNA COREN: Good morning, Nate. That's right, we're here at Sydney's Bondi Beach known for its beautiful waves and golden beaches, but yesterday, it was turned into a terror attack that has shocked the nation. As gunshots rang out over Bondi Beach, disbelief turned to utter terror as two gunmen, a father and a son, armed with high-powered rifles unleashed absolute carnage. Their target, a Hanukkah festival. After 60 shots were fired for around 10 minutes, a courageous civilian, Ahmed al-Ahmed crept up on one of the attackers and wrestled the gun from him. The final shootout with police captured by a drone. Among some of the first responders was Bondi lifeguard, Ben Ferguson.

BONDI LIFEGUARD BEN FERGUSON: It was Ground Zero. Like they were all there and then like — and then we ended up carrying like bodies into — transferring them to the stretchers.

COREN: Rabbi Eli Schlanger was among the dead. He and his wife had just welcomed the birth of their fifth child. We spoke to his brother-in-law.

RABBI MENDEL KASTEL: She's in shock, but she's obviously, you know, broken. It's something that no person should ever have to endure.

COREN: But many in the Jewish community feared it was only a matter of time, with synagogues fire bombed and vandalized since the October 7 attacks.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY CO-CEO ALEX RYVCHIN: Soaring levels of antisemitism and incitement in many ways has made this predictable and we warned that this would happen and yet you just don't expect it to happen because it's Sydney, Australia, it's Bondi Beach, it's our peaceful homeland here.

COREN: Now, people obviously are grieving, they are also extremely angry. We have spoken to residents here in Bondi who say these acts of violence just do not happen in Australia and they're actually blaming the government for not doing enough to stop the rise of antisemitism in this country, Tony.

DOKOUPIL: Anna Coren for us at Bondi Beach, Anna, thank you very much. And a note to our viewers, later, we will be talking with the parents of a little girl who got separated from her parents during the attack. She is okay.

(....)

7:40:33 a.m.

5 minutes and 6 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Bondi Beach Survivors on Escaping with Family]

KING: We return to the deadly terror attack on the Bondi Beach in Australia. When the chaos started, Wayne and Vanessa Miller got separated from their three-year-old little girl. We have to say up front, she is okay but this could be tough to watch. A stranger, picture this, laid down on top of this little girl to protect her. The woman was hit by a bullet but she somehow managed to take this photo of the two of them. We spoke to Wayne and Vanessa Miller just before we went on the air this morning. Good to see you, Wayne and Vanessa Miller. I'm so sorry that you and your family and anybody had to go through any of this. Hello.

WAYNE MILLER: Hi.

VANESSA MILLER: Hi.

WAYNE MILLER: Good morning. And thank you for having us on your show.

KING: Yes, guys. How is your little girl? And also how are you? I would imagine the two of you are still processing this.

WAYNE MILLER: It's been a day — it happened last night — it's been a day full of shock and a lot of emotions and thoughts running through our heads at what could have been. We just are very thankful to — you know, to assume that we're victims of this terror attack, but we are the fortunate victims because there are a lot of victims that are not so fortunate that have lost loved

ones and are hurt and still in hospital during this time and are critically injured.

KING: You know, Vanessa, I think Wayne is right when he said it's the what could have beens that gets you every single time. When did you all know there was a problem? What did you hear? What did you see in this moment?

WAYNE MILLER: The most beautiful Hanukkah event down at Bondi Beach.

VANESSA MILLER: The iconic Bondi Beach.

WAYNE MILLER: Yes.

VANESSA MILLER: And it was certainly the best beach.

WAYNE MILLER: Yes. And there was — they were giving doughnuts and there was face painting and there was music and Capri wanted to go get a balloon. And anyway, we walked up to the actual — to the west end of the event area, which is actually the closest part to where the shooter was, and we were waiting in line there and the next thing I hear, a bang and something like hits me in the face. It's not shrapnel, but it was maybe leaves or branches that hit me in the face. I actually turned away and I thought, geez, is that a firecracker going off? I thought geez, that sounds like it, someone lit a fire cracker in such a way. Then another bullet went off. I turned back and started turning away from it, my daughter was in front of me. I just turned, I grabbed her and I just a table and I just dove under this table and I just lay on top of my daughter, Capri, and I just lying there, on top of her, shielding her, basically smothered her, made sure no part of her body was exposed and the bullets were just going off — people screaming and running. The next thing, Vanessa calls me and says have you got the girls? I'm like I've got Capri, I'm on top of Capri. Where is Gigi? You're with Gigi. Where is Gigi? She said, no, I'm not with Gigi, where is Gigi?

KING: Vanessa, that must have been terrifying realizing neither one of you had Gigi.

VANESSA MILLER: It was terrifying. I was hoping that Wayne did have — I was — I got dragged for cover behind a parked car, I then stuck my head out and I am screaming and the gunshots are going and I'm trying to run. I had two police officers right in behind a car, one was injured, one was bleeding from the head. I was screaming out "My baby! My baby! My baby is there. My baby Gigi." And everyone was like, "Stop screaming. Stop screaming. He's going to get us. He's going to hear us. He is going to hear us." I said, I don't care. I have got nothing to lose. I have got to go. I have got to go. I have got to go.

DOKOUPIL: I'm so happy that your two children are okay and this morning we can have this conversation when so many other families we keep in mind are not. I want to go to a moment, Vanessa, that you had with Wayne amidst this celebration, the music, the bubbles, the face painting, you turn to him and you say are we sure this is safe?

VANESSA MILLER: Yes, I did, 15 minutes before it all happened.

WAYNE MILLER: We were actually on our way driving to the event, we were coming down the road towards Bondi and we could see where the event was and —

VANESSA MILLER: There were only two policemen there. I didn't feel safe. I said to him, I didn't feel safe.

DOKOUPIL: I think Jews in many communities around the world understand exactly what you mean for that question, but for people outside the community, why does that kind of concern come to mind?

WAYNE MILLER: — it's just what our government has done in this country, this happened — that as this started, this happened.

VANESSA MILLER: He's got blood on his hands and he knows it.

WAYNE MILLER: The acts of terrorism have been rewarded by the Australian weak government.

KING: Before you go, I just want to know have you had a chance to talk to the woman who covered your daughter? Have you had any —

VANESSA MILLER: Yes.

WAYNE MILLER: Yes.

KING: — I'm glad to know that. All right.

WAYNE MILLER: We had a reunion today and she came to our house with her husband and —

DOKOUPIL: That's beautiful.

WAYNE MILLER: We spoke to them and then I said just thank you. You are an absolute brave hero, you are an absolute superhero.

KING: Wayne and Vanessa, you two are bonded with this woman for life. You all painted such a picture this morning. It's so upsetting just to hear your story, I can't imagine what it was like to live through it. Thank you so much for your time this morning. I'm glad your family is safe.

WAYNE MILLER: Thank you.

KING: We remember the others that are not. Thank you both.

VANESSA MILLER: Thank you.

DOKOUPIL: Thank you.

GAYLE KING: Take care.

(....)

8:02:18 a.m.

1 minute and 45 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: 15 Killed in Attack on Australia Hanukkah Festival]

DOKOUPIL: In Australia this morning, one suspect is dead and the other wounded after the country's worst mass killing in nearly 30 years. The gunmen opened fire on an Hanukkah celebration last night at Bondi Beach, one of that country's most famous destinations. Fifteen people were killed, dozens more were hurt. Investigators say they picked this site deliberately because they were targeting Jews. Anna Coren is at the scene for us. Anna, good morning again.

COREN: Good morning. We are at a vigil here at Bondi Beach where people have been coming throughout the day to lay flowers for the victims of yesterday's massacre when two gunmen, a father and a son opened fire on a Jewish festival next to where I'm standing where hundreds of people had gathered to celebrate the first day of Hanukkah. The shooting went on for about 10 minutes as people tried to hide, while others fled for their lives. One courageous bystander, 43-year-old Ahmed al-Ahmed crept up on one of the gunmen. He seized the shotgun for him, it was an act of heroism that undoubtedly saved lives. The gunmen killed 15 people and injured more than 40. The ages range from a 10-year-old girl to a 87-year-old Holocaust survivor. Police shot and killed the 50-year-old gunman and arrested his 24-year-old son who was wounded during the shootout. Well, many people we have spoken to here in the Jewish community say this act of terror was waiting to happen. Antisemitism has been on the rise in Australia ever since the October 7 attacks with graffiti and firebomb attacks on synagogues. Now, where people are obviously grieving, they are also angry. We have spoken to a number of residents who say these acts of violence do not happen in Australia and they are blaming the government for not doing enough to stop the rise of antisemitism in the country, Nate.

BURLESON: Anna Coren in Australia, thank you.