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‘Miracle’ as gunman failed to pierce shul doors

# THE WORLD CONDEMNS YOM KIPPUR SHOOTING



TRAUMA: Still in traditional Yom Kippur garments, a traumatised worshipper is taken by bus to hospital



AGONY: Stunned and sobbing mourners hug after the attack

**THE Yom Kippur shooting outside a German synagogue has been condemned around the world.**

Two people were killed on the holiest day of the Jewish year on Wednesday when a masked gunman tried to force his way into the shul in Halle . . . but could not get past the bolted doors.

Seventy traumatised worshippers were taken to hospital where they continued the Ne'illah service and blew the shofar at the end of the Fast.

The 27-year-old German shaven-headed gunman shot a woman dead near the entrance to the adjacent Jewish cemetery after he tried in vain to shoot his way into the shul.

Germany's *Bild* newspaper reported that a hand grenade was also thrown into the cemetery.

The combat-dressed gunman — named as Stephan Balliet, 27, from the nearby state of Saxony-Anhalt — fled in a car after the outrage and later tried to hijack a taxi before



BULLET holes in shul door

BY GEOFF KUHILLOW  
 FOREIGN EDITOR

being arrested.

He had streamed a video of his sickening attack, with the words "I think the Holocaust never happened" and "the root of all problems are Jews".

Max Privorotzki, the head of the Jewish community in Halle, said: "He shot multiple times at the door and threw a

couple of Molotov cocktails, fireworks or grenades at it. But the door stayed closed. God has protected us. It was a miracle."

And the head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Josef Schuster, added that it was "scandalous that the synagogue was not protected by the police on a holiday like Yom Kippur".

The country's foreign minister Heiko Maas said: "Shots being fired at a synagogue in Germany on Yom Kippur hits us in the heart."

Chancellor Angela Merkel visited a synagogue in Berlin for a vigil after the Fast ended in a show of respect, offering her solidarity "for all Jews on the holy day of Yom Kippur".

The American embassy in Berlin declared: "This is an attack on us all." And American senator Elizabeth Warren said: "I am heartack for the victims of this cruel attack."

World Jewish Congress president Ronald Lauder said: "It is appalling that on the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, when Jews are sitting in

synagogues all around the world immersed in prayer, yet another attack against Jews has been perpetrated.

"The fact that 75 years after the Holocaust, such perpetrators are gaining influence in Germany speaks volumes."

Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis, said: "It is shocking that the synagogue was not adequately protected. This should not — and cannot — happen. Governments must deliver on their promise of never again."

In London, Sir Eric Pickles, speaking on behalf of the Conservative Party, told the *Jewish Telegraph*: "The dark shadow of antisemitism sweeps across Europe.

"Its aim is to make Jews across the Continent and in the UK feel frightened and to make their life uncomfortable."

He added: "I got up very early this morning to go to synagogue and help celebrate a circumcision with Jewish

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# Yom Kippur shooting horror

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friends. What we need to say is that Jewish citizens must feel safe in their own country and it is pointless to make ritual condemnations if we are to prevent antisemitism becoming part of mainstream politics."

Sir Eric, who is the prime minister's antisemitism supremo, added: "This is a lesson we must act on. Words are not enough. Action is required."

Prime minister Boris Johnson said: "My thoughts are with our friends in Germany and with Jewish communities following yesterday's sickening attack."

"To target people in their place of worship on one of the holiest days in the Jewish calendar is despicable."

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said: "This is shocking and disgraceful. My thoughts are with Jewish communities in Halle and across the world."

As the European parliament held a moment of silence for the unnamed victims – the other was killed in a nearby kebab shop – prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in Jerusalem: "The attack on the holiest day of our people is additional testimony that antisemitism in Europe is increasing."

He was supported by a "stunned and pained" President Reuven Rivlin, who said: "We call on Germany to bring the full force of the law against antisemitism."

Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz added



**OUTRAGE:** The perpetrator shoots from a long-barrelled gun. This image taken was from a video made available by ATV-Studio Halle

that "it brings to mind the darkest periods in Jewish history."

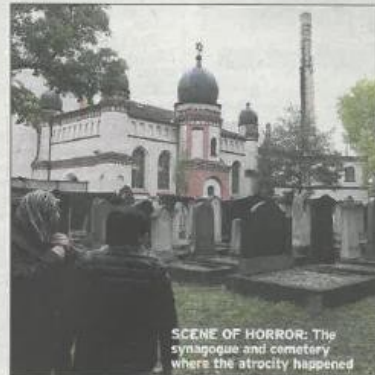
And Benny Gantz, who is vying with Netanyahu to become PM, said: "This is a reminder of the need to quash antisemitism by force, deterrence and uprooting its cause – antisemitic hate information."

World Zionist Organisation vice-chairman Yaakov Hagoel said: "This should turn on the red light for all European governments", while EU president, Jean Claude Juncker, described himself as "shocked".

In Britain, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis tweeted: "The tragic reality is that wherever there are Jews, hatred is never far away."

Gideon Falter, chief executive of Campaign Against Antisemitism, said: "Once again, Jews around the world end a holy day only to discover that yet again, while we in Britain prayed, there has been an attempt to slaughter Jews for their Judaism."

David Delew, chief executive of the CST, added: "The attack is a wake-up call for all about the importance of communal security."



**SCENE OF HORROR:** The synagogue and cemetery where the atrocity happened

**Lieberman: 'Job of PM? I'd tell them to go hell'**

FORMATION of a unity government in Israel looked as far away as ever this week after Yisrael Beiteinu party leader Avigdor Lieberman spurned a PM rotation offer.

"If I am offered the opportunity to be prime minister, I would say, 'Go to hell,'" he declared.

Lieberman insisted he will not compromise on matters of religion and state, in which he has demanded broad reforms.

"Unfortunately, Netanyahu doesn't understand concepts like friendship or loyalty," he added.

Lieberman lamented that whenever someone disagrees with Netanyahu, that person becomes his enemy.

"You are immediately accused of hating the prime minister, of being a leftist, of trying to topple him," he said.



**PART of the rare haul Smuggled rare coins are seized**

SIXTY-NINE rare coins from the period of Alexander the Great have been caught being smuggled from the Gaza Strip into Israel.

Ministry of Defence inspectors found them at the Keren Shalom crossing on a truck transporting textile products.

The silver coins were probably minted 2,300 years during the reign of Alexander or shortly after his death.

Some were minted in the town of Amphipolis, an ancient Greek city from where Alexander prepared for his campaigns into Asia.

The coins are said to be "very rare items of great cultural value".

