

Beat: Local

Belgium hunts gunman who killed 3 at Jewish Museum

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USPA News - Belgian police continued their manhunt Sunday for a gunman who walked into the Jewish Museum in Brussels on Saturday and opened fire, killing three people and injuring a fourth in what is believed to have been an anti-Semitic attack, officials said. Three videos taken by surveillance cameras and released to the public on Sunday showed the gunman, who can be seen wearing sunglasses, a black cap, and a blue shirt, walking into the Jewish Museum with two bags over his shoulder.

He then takes out a Kalashnikov automatic assault rifle and fires into the museum. Federal Police released the images and videos as part of a public appeal for information in the hopes of identifying the gunman, whose face is not clearly shown in the footage. "Anonymity is guaranteed," police said in a statement, urging anyone who may have seen the suspect to come forward. The shooting attack happened at about 3:50 p.m. local time on Saturday and lasted less than 30 seconds, after which the gunman fled on foot in the capital's Marollen district. The footage from surveillance cameras suggest the gunman carried out the attack alone, but the man's identity is still unclear and no one has claimed responsibility for the attack. A couple from Israel and a French female museum volunteer died at the scene of the shooting. A fourth person, a Belgian national who worked at the museum's reception, was wounded and remained in a critical but stable condition on late Sunday evening, according to the prosecutor's office in Brussels. Officials rejected earlier media reports that claimed the fourth victim had also died of his injuries. Saturday's shooting is believed to have been an anti-Semitic attack, prompting international condemnation and leading to increased security at Jewish locations across Belgium. The museum attack coincided with the assault of two Jews outside a synagogue in Paris on late Saturday, causing French authorities to also tighten security at Jewish institutions. In other developments on Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed his outrage at the museum killings. "I am very disturbed by the growing anti-Semitism in Europe. There must be zero tolerance for anti-Semitism toward Jews and their state," he told Belgian Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo during a telephone call, according to Netanyahu's spokesman.

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