

World leaders slam terror attacks in Brussels

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Brussels: Various leaders from across the globe slammed the terror attacks which rocked the Belgian capital city of Brussels as "cowardly".

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull offered the "most resolute solidarity" to the people of Belgium in the wake of the coordinated attacks claimed by the Islamic State (IS) and admitted Europeans were more at risk than other nations because of the EU's lackadaisical security measures in the wake of the Syrian refugee crisis.

"Australians condemn these cowardly attacks in Brussels and the people of Belgium have our thoughts and our prayers are with them but, above all, our most resolute solidarity," Turnbull said.

"We are utterly united, completely united in the fight against terrorism, in the fight against this sort of cowardly violence."

Meanwhile, New Zealand prime minister said New Zealanders are thinking about the people and the government of Belgium.

"We utterly condemn these appalling acts which have killed and wounded so many," Key said in a statement.

"No innocent person should have to worry about such violence when going about their daily lives and New Zealand stands with Belgium in the fight against terrorism," he said.

"Atrocities like this and the recent attacks in Turkey are a stark reminder of why the international community must stand together in the global fight against terrorism."

UK Prime Minister David Cameron condemned the "appalling and savage" attacks in Brussels and warned of a "very real terror threat" to Europe, as Britain deployed extra patrols at ports, airports, metro stations and major railway stations.

"We face a very real terrorist threat right across the different countries of Europe and we have to meet that with everything we have," Cameron said following an emergency cabinet meeting to determine UK's response after a string of explosions ripped through Brussels airport and a city metro station, killing at least 34 people and prompting a high-security alert across European nations.

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel on national television labelled the attacks as "blind, violent and cowardly".

"This is a day of tragedy, a black day," he said.

US President Barack Obama sent across the message of unity to fight terrorism. "We must be together regardless of nationality or race or faith in fighting against the scourge of terrorism. We can and we will defeat those who threaten the safety and security of all around the world," he said, speaking in the Cuban capital Havana.

"The thoughts and the prayers of the American people are with the people of Belgium and we stand in solidarity with them in condemning these outrageous attacks against innocent people," said Obama.

The blasts, which occurred at the Belgian capital's airport and at the Maalbeek railway station, have killed more than 34

people and injured hundreds.

- With PTI inputs