

## Moscow's Night of Terror: Analyzing the Crocus City Hall Concert Attack

On 22 Mar 2024, Moscow witnessed its deadliest attack in recent history, claiming 93 lives (expected to rise) and injuring over 100 at a sold-out concert of the Russian rock band 'Piknik' at Crocus City Hall in the Moscow Oblast.

- **Attack Details:** At least five camouflage-clad attackers armed with assault rifles killed guards and concertgoers at the entrance, blocked the main entrance, opened fire, and threw a grenade or incendiary bomb, starting a fire. They allegedly fled in a white Renault car, suggesting prior training and an exit plan.
- **Investigation:** The FSB Security Service has arrested 11 individuals (4 directly involved detained in Bryansk, near the Ukraine border) connected to the attack, as informed by the FSB chief to President Vladimir Putin.
- **ISIS-K Claims Responsibility:** Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISIS-K), active in Afghanistan, claimed responsibility via Telegram without evidence. The group had previously claimed a deadly bombing at the Russian embassy in Kabul in Sep 2022.
- **Prior Warnings:** Two weeks before the attack, the US embassy warned of extremist plans targeting large gatherings in Moscow, sharing this information with Russian authorities. Putin had called the warnings "provocative" and an attempt to destabilize Russian society.
- **Historical Context and Impact:** The attack evokes memories of the 2002 Nord Ost terrorist attack in Moscow and the 2024 attack has occurred days after Putin secured a six-year tenure through an electoral majority.
- **Security Measures:** Enhanced security measures are in effect at Moscow's airports (Domodedovo, Sheremetyevo, Vnukovo, and Zhukovsky), railway stations, and metro. The Red Square is cordoned off, and large public gatherings are cancelled until at least 24 Mar.