# Masked arson attack leaves five injured at Gants Hill restaurant as arrests are made



An arson attack at the Indian Aroma restaurant in Gants Hill, Ilford, east London, has left five people injured, with three in life-threatening condition. The incident occurred around 9pm on Friday, August 22, when masked individuals entered the premises, poured liquid, and ignited flames. CCTV footage shows the harrowing moment, with a man seen running out of the building partially on fire. The fire caused significant damage to the ground floor of the restaurant.

Firefighters from the London Fire Brigade rescued five individuals from the building, who were subsequently treated for burns and smoke inhalation. Two were taken to a major trauma centre while three were treated at local hospitals. In addition to those rescued, nine other people managed to escape the premises before the blaze took hold. Eyewitnesses described hearing screams and sirens, with one resident recalling seeing three people "severely burned" and being tended to, expressing horror at the severity of their pain.

Two arrests have been made in connection with the attack: a 15-year-old boy and a 54-year-old man have been taken into custody on suspicion of arson. Detective Chief Inspector Mark Rogers appealed to the public for any information that could assist the ongoing investigation, urging witnesses to contact the Metropolitan Police or Crimestoppers anonymously.

The Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade are treating the incident as a serious arson attack, with the cause still under formal investigation. The release of CCTV footage in the wake of the attack has shocked local residents and business owners, some describing the scenes as akin to a "Halloween scene." The attack has caused widespread concern within the community about safety and the motive behind the blaze.

Similar incidents in the UK, such as a recent racially motivated arson attack on a restaurant complex in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, have heightened awareness around the potential hate crime elements associated with such deliberate fires. While authorities have not yet confirmed a motive for the Gants Hill attack, the violent nature of the assault and presence of masked perpetrators have prompted ongoing scrutiny.

The community remains deeply affected, with calls for vigilance and support for those injured. Police continue to ask anyone with information to come forward to help bring those responsible to justice.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/ilford-restaurant-arson-attack-indian-aroma-cctv-b1244279.html), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-fire-restaurant-ilford-london-fire-brigade-b1244213.html), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/ilford-london-gants-hill-cctv-police-b1244253.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/wes-streeting-ilford-gants-hill-london-fire-brigade-london-ambulance-service-b1244209.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-fire-restaurant-ilford-london-fire-brigade-b1244213.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html), [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/ilford-restaurant-arson-attack-indian-aroma-cctv-b1244279.html), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/ilford-london-gants-hill-cctv-police-b1244253.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/john-finucane-muslim-facebook-police-belfast-b1177738.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-restaurant-arson-attack-arrests-indian-aroma-b1244297.html> - A 15-year-old boy and a 54-year-old man have been arrested on suspicion of arson following an attack at the Indian Aroma restaurant in Gants Hill, east London. The incident occurred around 9pm on Friday, August 22, when five people were injured, with two in life-threatening condition. CCTV footage shows masked individuals entering the restaurant, pouring liquid, and igniting flames. A man was seen running out of the building, partially on fire. Detective Chief Inspector Mark Rogers urged anyone with information to come forward. The fire caused significant damage to the ground floor, and London Fire Brigade crews rescued five people from the restaurant, while nine others escaped beforehand. Local residents expressed shock and concern over the incident. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Metropolitan Police via 101, quoting reference 7559/22AUG, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/ilford-restaurant-arson-attack-indian-aroma-cctv-b1244279.html> - Shocking CCTV footage has emerged showing the moment an east London restaurant was firebombed, leaving three people in life-threatening condition. The incident occurred at the Indian Aroma in Gants Hill, Ilford, around 9pm on Friday. The footage appears to show a group of people with their faces covered entering the restaurant and pouring liquid on the floor before flames engulf the interior. Part of the ground floor was damaged, and five people were rescued by firefighters. Nine others managed to escape beforehand. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the London Fire Brigade and the Metropolitan Police.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/gants-hill-fire-restaurant-ilford-london-fire-brigade-b1244213.html> - A suspected arson attack at the Indian Aroma restaurant in Gants Hill, Ilford, has left three people in a life-threatening condition. The fire broke out around 9pm on Friday, with five people rescued by firefighters and taken to hospital. CCTV footage appears to show masked individuals entering the restaurant, pouring liquid, and igniting flames. A man was seen running out of the building, partially on fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the London Fire Brigade and the Metropolitan Police.
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/wes-streeting-ilford-gants-hill-london-fire-brigade-london-ambulance-service-b1244209.html> - Five people have been rescued by firefighters and taken to hospital after a blaze at the Indian Aroma restaurant in Ilford, east London. The fire occurred on Woodford Avenue in Gants Hill around 9pm on Friday. Part of the ground floor was damaged, and five people were rescued from the restaurant, while nine others were able to escape beforehand. Five people were treated for burns and smoke inhalation; two were taken to a major trauma centre, and three to local hospitals. The cause of the blaze is under investigation by the London Fire Brigade and the Metropolitan Police.
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/ilford-london-gants-hill-cctv-police-b1244253.html> - A fire at the Indian Aroma restaurant in Gants Hill, Ilford, was described as a 'Halloween scene' by a local businessman. CCTV footage appears to show masked individuals entering the restaurant, pouring liquid, and igniting flames. Part of the ground floor was damaged, and five people were rescued by firefighters. Three people are in a life-threatening condition. The cause of the fire is under investigation by the London Fire Brigade and the Metropolitan Police.
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/john-finucane-muslim-facebook-police-belfast-b1177738.html> - An arson attack on a restaurant in Co Antrim, believed to be racially motivated, has been condemned as 'deplorable'. Graffiti was also reported at the restaurant in Newtownabbey on Wednesday. The Railway Bar and Steam Dining bar and restaurant complex was destroyed in the blaze. Police are treating the incident as a racially-motivated hate crime and have appealed for information. The business announced its closure following the attack.