Munich Massacre

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Munich Massacre** | |
| [Ap munich905 t.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ap_munich905_t.jpg)  One of the most reproduced photos taken during the siege captured a kidnapper on the balcony attached to [Munich Olympic village](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olympic_Village,_Munich) Building 31, where members of the [Israeli Olympic team and delegation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_at_the_1972_Summer_Olympics) were quartered. | |
|  | |
| **Location** | [Munich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich), [West Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Germany) |
| **Date** | 5–6 September 1972 |
| **Target** | [Israeli Olympic team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_at_the_Olympics) |
| **Attack type** | [Hostage-taking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hostage-taking)  [Mass murder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_murder) |
| **Deaths** | 17 total (including perpetrators)   * 6 Israeli coaches * 5 Israeli athletes * 5 Black September members * 1 West German police officer |
| **Perpetrators** | [Black September](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September_Organization) |
| **Motive** | [Israeli–Palestinian conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict) |

The **Munich massacre** was an attack during the [1972 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1972_Summer_Olympics) in [Munich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich), [West Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Germany), at which eleven [Israeli Olympic team](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_at_the_1972_Summer_Olympics) members were taken [hostage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hostage) and eventually killed, along with a German police officer, by the [Palestinian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_people) terrorist group [Black September](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September_(group)).

Shortly after the crisis began, they demanded 234 prisoners jailed in Israel and the German-held founders of the [Red Army Faction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Army_Faction) be released.

The attack was motivated by secular nationalism. [German neo-Nazis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-Nazism_in_Germany) gave the attackers logistical assistance.

Police officers killed five of the eight Black September members during a failed rescue attempt. They captured the three survivors, whom West Germany later released following [Lufthansa Flight 615](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lufthansa_Flight_615) in October.

[Mossad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mossad) responded to the release with the [1973 Israeli raid on Lebanon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1973_Israeli_raid_on_Lebanon) and [Operation Wrath of God](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Wrath_of_God), tracking down and killing Palestinians suspected of involvement in the massacre.

On 3 August 2016, two days prior to the start of the [2016 Summer Olympics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Summer_Olympics), the [International Olympic Committee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Olympic_Committee) officially honoured the eleven Israelis killed for the first time.

Lufthansa Flight 615

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lufthansa Flight 615** | |
| [Lufthansa Boeing 727-30C Fitzgerald.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lufthansa_Boeing_727-30C_Fitzgerald.jpg)  A Lufthansa [Boeing 727-100](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_727), similar to the aircraft involved in the hijacking of Flight 615 | |
| **Hijacking summary** | |
| **Date** | 29 October 1972 |
| **Summary** | [Hijacking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aircraft_hijacking) |
| **Site** | [Nicosia International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicosia_International_Airport)  [Zagreb Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zagreb_Airport)  [Tripoli International Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tripoli_International_Airport) |
| **Passengers** | 13 (including 2 hijackers) |
| **Crew** | 7 |
| **Fatalities** | none |
| **Survivors** | 20 (all) |
| **Aircraft type** | [Boeing 727-100](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boeing_727) |
| **Operator** | [Lufthansa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lufthansa) |
| **Flight origin** | [Damascus Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus_International_Airport) |
| **Destination** | [Frankfurt Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frankfurt_Airport) |

The [hijacking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aircraft_hijacking) of **Lufthansa Flight 615** was an act of [terrorism committed by a Palestinian group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestinian_political_violence) that occurred on 29 October 1972 and aimed at the liberation of the three surviving perpetrators of the [Munich massacre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich_massacre) from a [West German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Germany) prison.

When the [Lufthansa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lufthansa) airplane was seized by sympathisers of [*Black September*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September_(group))during the [Beirut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beirut)-[Ankara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ankara) part of a multi-stopover flight from [Damascus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Damascus) to [Frankfurt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frankfurt), the West German authorities complied with the demand of having the prisoners released. They were handed over at [Zagreb Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zagreb_Airport), and the hijacked aircraft was flown to [Tripoli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tripoli), where all hostages were released. The liberated Munich attackers were granted asylum by Libyan leader [Muammar Gaddafi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muammar_Gaddafi).

For its actions, the West German government was criticised by [Israel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) and other parties, in some cases combined with allegations that the hijacking had been staged or at least tolerated with theories of a secret agreement between the German government and [Black September](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_September)- release of the surviving terrorists in exchange for assurances of no further attacks on Germany.