

Israel News Digest



Christian Friends of Israel

cfi@cfijerusalem.org

www.cfijerusalem.org

October 2017 / Jewish Year 5778

Final Hours of Har Adar Terrorist

Nimer Mahmoud Ahmad Jamal, a 37 year-old Palestinian, shot to death three Israelis and injured another in the settlement of Har Adar outside Jerusalem, on Tuesday, September 26. On that morning, he approached the back gate to Har Adar carrying a concealed pistol. When security officers ordered him to halt for inspection, he drew the weapon and opened fire, wounding one person and killing Border Policeman Solomon Gavriyah, 20, and security guards Youssef Ottman, 25, from the village of Abu Ghosh and Or Arish, 25, from Har Adar.

Jamal, who was from the neighboring village of Bayt Surik, was a father of four young children and held a license to work in Israeli settlements. That set him apart from the typical profile of Palestinian attackers, who are generally young, unmarried men.

In a final message to his wife, which was released after the attack by the Israeli army, Jamal, who had worked for years as a house cleaner in Har Adar, mourned her departure and said he had been a terrible husband to her. "When you wake up in the morning, share this message on my page. Let your conscience rest. You were a good wife, Umm Baha [mother of Baha], and a compassionate mother and I was the one who behaved badly," he wrote. He added: "I say this in full awareness: my wife had nothing to do with what will happen tomorrow." He finished his message by asking for her forgiveness and for her to raise the children.



(L - R) Israeli Border Police SSgt. Solomon Gavriya, 20, an Israeli of Ethiopian origin from the city of Be'er Yaakov; security guard Yosef Ottman, 25, from the Israeli Arab community of Abu Ghosh; and security guard Or Arish, 25, of Har Adar; were killed in the attack. (Courtesy, Times of Israel.com)



Security checkpoint at where attack occurred.
(by Ohad Zwigenberg; "Border policeman, 2 security guards killed in Har Adar terror attack," via ynetnews.com)

"The preliminary investigation indicates that he had significant personal and family problems, including those regarding family violence. His wife fled to Jordan several weeks ago and left the children with him," the statement said.

The night before his attack, he published a picture of himself... at the gym and wrote: "I fear nothing, Oh God. I testify there is no God but God." It was a reference to a foundational Islamic phrase often repeated in prayer. Muslims believe it is a good thing to pronounce the name of God as often as possible. They do not fear desecrating the name, as do Jews. Thus the name Allah is tacked on, in a cryptic way, to many Arabic phrases, even everyday ones.

Michal Avidor, a resident of Har Adar, said Jamal had cleaned her house for the past two and a half years,

and described him as “completely normal” and a “good-natured” man. Ironically, terror attacks are often committed by people who seem to be otherwise “completely normal.” But clearly there is an evil spirit resident in their minds that causes them to do abnormal things.

She told Israel Radio that she was “on my way to school to tell my children that the man who’s been cleaning our house for the past two and a half years was the terrorist.”

At the scene, responding to questions about the rarity of attacks by Palestinians with work permits, Israel Police Commissioner Roni Alsheich said, “To my regret there is no “usual terrorist” profile for this man. It could just be someone who is fed up with everything and decides to take out his rage in an attack,” he said, adding, “The incitement [against Israel] is constant.”

While the attacker did not make his motives for the shooting clear, the Hamas terror group, which controls the Gaza strip, [as is typical with them] welcomed the attack, linking it to the struggle over control of nearby Jerusalem. Hamas spokesperson, Hazem Qassem, said in a statement, “Once again Jerusalem proves that it is at the heart of the conflict with the occupation, and that there is no way to get it out of the equation of the conflict.”



Border Police attend the funeral of fellow officer Solomon Gavriya, in Beer Yaakov, Sept. 26, 2017. (Miriam Alster/Flash90, via Times of Israel.com)

Yes, there is a way. And that is for the radical Palestinians to get it out of their heads that Jerusalem belongs to them. Jerusalem is not even mentioned in the Quran, except the vague reference in Sura 17:1 to the “farthest mosque,” which no one has ever proven conclusively refers to the Al Aqsa mosque.

The Hamas spokesperson used the opportunity to attack the Palestinian Authority’s strategy of seeking statehood through membership in international bodies. “Today’s operation means that our people reject the logic of begging for rights through international institutions and that this nation will protect its rights and holy places with its blood and spirit,” he said.

However, Munir al-Jaghoub, who heads Fatah’s Information Department in the Office of Mobilization and Organization, published a statement on Fatah’s official Facebook account, saying Israeli policies against Palestinians were to blame for the attack at Har Adar.

This is pure nonsense. The cause of violence is the Islamic insistence that the land belongs to them and that they have a “holy mandate” to get it back. Another cause of violence is the practice of incitement—especially of children—against Israel. Children are taught, from a very early age, that they must kill Jews. There are summer camps that teach children how to carry and shoot weapons, and how to stab and kill Jews. This has to stop, if there is to be any chance for peace.

The Israeli government correctly blames the terrorism and violence in part on incitement by Palestinian political and religious leaders, compounded on social media sites that glorify violence and encourage attacks. Since September 2015, some 51 Israelis, two visiting Americans, an Eritrean national, a Palestinian man and a British student have been killed in stabbing, shooting and vehicular attacks by Palestinian assailants. (article from Times of Israel)

Settlements Not a Problem

The US ambassador to Israel raised eyebrows on Thursday by saying that Israel occupies [lives in] just two percent of the West Bank and that settlements there are part of the Jewish state proper. The comments angered the Palestinians and are at odds with decades of US policy in the Mideast. “I think the settlements are part of Israel,” American Ambassador David Friedman said in an interview with an Israeli news site. He refrained from answering when asked if settlements would be removed in a peace agreement with the Palestinians.



The Israeli community of Har Hadar (by Josh Evnin, CC-BY-SA-2.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War. The Palestinians have limited autonomy in 40 percent of the area, with Israel in full control over the remaining 60 percent. Palestinians demand the West Bank as part of a future state.

The Palestinians, along with much of the international community, view Israel's West Bank settlements as illegal and an obstacle to peace. Israel disputes this, saying the fate of the settlements must be resolved through negotiations with the Palestinians.

"Obviously, there are important security considerations to those settlements, important nationalistic, historical and religious significance...and I think the settlers view themselves as Israelis, and Israel views the settlers as Israelis," Friedman said.

Friedman is a member of President Donald Trump's team spearheading efforts to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. He was appointed ambassador earlier this year, a move that was opposed by Democrats and some Jewish groups because of donations to Israeli settlements, opposition to Palestinian statehood and vocal support for hard-line Israeli government positions.

In an interview with an Israeli newspaper earlier this month, Friedman referred to the "alleged occupation" of Palestinian territories. The State Department later clarified that his comments did not reflect a change in US policy. President Trump has called an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord "the ultimate deal," and has sent envoys, including his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, to meet with the two sides. But little apparent progress has been made, and the Palestinians have expressed frustration over the efforts. (Ynet News article)

"No More Settlements Evacuated"

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Wednesday that no West Bank settlement will ever be evacuated again. He made this announcement during a controversial ceremony in Gush Etzion marking 50 years of settlements.

"The settlements are as important to me as they are to you," Netanyahu told the crowd, "which is why I'm saying this clearly – there will never be an evacuation of settlements again in the Land of Israel. We never got peace by uprooting settlements, we got terrorism and missiles instead," he added, alluding to the 2005 Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip. "We will never repeat that. It was merely a promo for what is happening in the Middle East. Every territory that falls into the hands of radical Islam becomes a territory of death."



PM Netanyahu (U.S. Dept. of Defense; CC-BY-SA-3.0, Wikimedia Commons)

Education Minister Naftali Bennett, the chairman of the HaBayit Ha-Yehudi party, called for an Israeli annexation of Area C of the West Bank. "This is the time to apply sovereignty over our very good land," he said. "There's no better time to do so than right now."

"All the land that you see I will give to you [Abraham] and your offspring...Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you" (Genesis 13:15,17).

In Messiah,

Lonnie C. Mings

Christian Friends of Israel invites you to celebrate

Israel's 70th Birthday

April 16-19, 2018
in Jerusalem

Contact: events@cfjjerusalem.org