

# IND Weekly

## Israel News Digest Weekly



Christian Friends of Israel

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## ...AND THE KILLING GOES ON



### **DON'T FORGET**

According to the IDF, an additional two cadets were seriously wounded, and 15 other officers and cadets sustained less severe wounds. Some 300 soldiers were in the area at the time of the attack, the IDF said.

Yossi Fraenkel, deputy commander of the ZAKA rescue and recovery organization in Jerusalem, said 12 of the wounded are in light condition, four are in either serious or moderate condition, and one is in critical condition. All the victims were evacuated to the hospital.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who visited the scene with Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman shortly after the 1:30 p.m. attack, said the identity of the terrorist was known. Later, he was identified as Fadi al-Qanbar, from the nearby neighborhood of Jebel Mukaber, long a source of incitement and attackers. This village was not far from where we lived, and I recall hearing the sound of the muezzin (the call to Islamic prayer) early in the morning, and at other times. That is the sound that President Obama once called “beautiful,” but it is not beautiful when it precedes a terrorist attack.

“We know the identity of the attacker, and according to all the signs, he is a supporter of Islamic State,” Netanyahu said, without elaborating. He added that there may be a connection between this attack and similar attacks recently in France and Berlin.

“We are fighting this plague, and will defeat it,” Netanyahu said, noting that Jebel Mukaber has been cordoned off, and that “we are taking other actions that I will not detail here. We will overcome this terrorism, just as we overcame other attacks. There are a number of actions that we will not specify at this time, which we will have to take to ensure that incidents such as these do not recur.”

Lieberman said the attack was clearly the result of incitement against Jews living in Israel.

Four IDF personnel were killed and 17 wounded, when a stolen flatbed truck driven by an Arab terrorist rammed into a group of soldiers adjacent to the Armon HaNatziv promenade in southeastern Jerusalem on Sunday afternoon, January 8. This area is referred to as the “tayelet” in Hebrew, and it is a place that my family and I often visited when we lived in Jerusalem.

Three female soldiers and one male soldier were declared dead at the scene. Two of them were US citizens.

“This brutal attack is obviously not because of any other reason but one: Because we are Jews and we live here in Israel,” he said. “There was no other reason, and no need to look for an excuse – not Jewish settlements and negotiations, but an attack inspired by ISIS.”

Lieberman continued: “We saw [it] in France, we saw it in Berlin, and unfortunately, we saw it today in Jerusalem. We will fight this terrorism with all tools at our disposal, and I’m sure that we will win.”

Soon after visiting the site, Netanyahu convened a meeting of the security cabinet, which decided to approve administrative detention for people identifying with ISIS. It also moved to destroy the home of the terrorist as soon as possible, and reject family-reunification requests his family had filed for relatives in Gaza and the West Bank. During the meeting, Netanyahu also directed the security forces to investigate reports that some people at the scene of the attack had praised it, and that if it indeed was the case, then to bring them to court.

Magen David Adom spokesman Elli Zenilman said several emergency personnel units responded immediately after receiving a call reporting the attack. “When we arrived at the scene, we saw something that was horrifying – young adults lying on the street in the area of the attack,” said Zenilman. “About 10 people were lying on the ground near the street,” one person said. “Some of them were trapped under the truck.” ZAKA Jerusalem commander Bentzi Oering described the scene as reminiscent of a battlefield.

“This [was] a very difficult attack,” he said. “I arrived with other ZAKA volunteers and the scene looked like a battlefield. Many injured lay on the grass, some of them still trapped under the terrorist’s truck.”

The truck’s windshield was riddled with bullet holes, from the tour guide firing at the truck. (The soldiers were on a tour of Jerusalem as part of their training.) Dozens of first-responders, police and fire-rescue personnel secured the scene and completely closed off traffic on the main thoroughfare next to the popular promenade.

“To our dismay, there is no limit to the cruelty of the terrorists who are willing to use any means possible to murder Jews and to damage the routine of life in Israel’s capital,” said Jerusalem mayor Nir Barkat.

Here is a tribute that my wife Coral wrote in 2004 when one of her former Anglican School students, young George Houry was killed by terrorists while jogging on the streets of Jerusalem (Arab terrorists mistook him for a Jewish man):

*“Snatched away in a moment of time,  
All reality forever changed.  
We grieve for the great loss*

*For all he was,  
For all he could have been,  
For the difference he could have made in this needy world.*

*Now it is up to us...  
We must never forget.”*

It could be modified to reflect what we felt after this tragic attack on the soldiers:

“For all they were, For all they could have been, For the difference they could have made in this needy world... We must never forget.” We are all praying for comfort for their families and for recovery of the injured.

***“O Lord, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me! I will not fear the tens of thousands drawn up against me on every side...because the Lord sustains me” (Psalms 3:1, 5,6).***

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