



The Jewish Federations®
OF NORTH AMERICA
Israel Office

TERROR WAVE IN ISRAEL

March 30, 2022

Three separate attacks in Israel left eleven victims in just over a week, alongside numerous wounded, raising fears that a new wave of terror has begun in the Jewish state.

Attacks

- In just over a week, three separate terror attacks have taken place in Israel.
- In the **first incident**, four Israelis were killed and two others wounded on March 22 in a ramming and stabbing attack at an outdoor shopping mall in Beersheba. The assailant, a 34-year-old Bedouin Arab from the Negev, first stabbed a woman to death at a gas station before entering his car, ramming a cyclist, and then stabbing several other people. The terrorist was confronted by an armed bus driver, who attempted to get him to lower his weapon, but when the attacker lunged, he was shot by the driver as well as a second armed Israeli civilian. The terrorist, who died from the gunshot wounds, was a convicted ISIS supporter.
- In the **second incident**, two terrorists killed two police officers in Hadera on March 27. During the attack, two Arab Israeli men opened fire with assault rifles on one of the city's main streets. The two gunmen, both affiliated with ISIS, were shot dead by police officers who had been dining at a nearby restaurant.
- Yesterday, in a **third incident**, five people were killed by a Palestinian terrorist in a shooting attack in the city of Bnei Brak. The gunman initially shot dead one person in a car and then two other people on a nearby sidewalk. He then shot dead another Israeli on a nearby street. The terrorist, a Palestinian from the West Bank, was then engaged in a shoot-out with a police officer who arrived at the scene by motorcycle. Both the terrorist and the police officer were killed.
- The attacks come at the same time that a landmark, and unprecedented summit was taking place in the Negev, between the foreign ministers of Israel, the United States and four Arab countries: The United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Bahrain, and Morocco.
- The Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which has sometimes been a time of heightened tension, also begins this week. In addition, today, March 30, marks "Land Day," the annual commemoration of the six Arab-Israelis who were killed during protests against the planned expropriation of land on March 30, 1976.

Reactions

- Israeli **security forces** have now been placed on the highest level of alert, with increased precautions and protections being put in place across the country, alongside additional IDF units being deployed in the West Bank. Nonetheless, Israeli media are reporting that large numbers of school children did not come to classes today, due to their parents' concern over safety.

- Following last night's attack, Israel's **Prime Minister Naftali Bennett** convened an emergency security meeting with Defense Minister Benny Gantz, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, the Public Security Minister, the IDF Chief-of-Staff, the Director of the ISA (Shin Bet), the Israel Police Inspector General, the Director of the National Security Council, the Prime Minister's Military Secretary, the head of the IDF Intelligence Directorate, the head of the IDF Operations Directorate and other officials.

- After the meeting, Prime Minister Bennett addressed the nation saying:

"Citizens of Israel, these are difficult days. Every few years the State of Israel deals with a wave of terrorism. After a period of quiet, there is a violent eruption by those who want to destroy us, those who want to hurt us at any price, whose hatred of Jews, of the State of Israel, drives them crazy. They are prepared to die – so that we will not live in peace.

"We are currently dealing with a new wave of terrorism.... The security forces of the State of Israel are the best in the world. They are up to the task and, as in the previous waves, we will prevail this time as well.

"Citizens of Israel, I ask, together with you, to share in the immense pain of the families and wish the wounded a quick recovery. We are all responsible for each other. We must all be responsible and alert. I stand by the civilians and police officers who shot the terrorists in the various locations. I have spoken with some of them and thanked them on behalf of all of us. These are heroes of Israel who, thanks to their courage, have saved lives. We face a challenging period. We have experience in dealing with terrorism, from the very beginning of Zionism. They did not break us then and they will not break us now. The secret of our existence is the mutual responsibility among us and our determination to maintain the home that we have built – at any price. Citizens of Israel, we will prevail this time as well."

- Several Israeli leaders have met with **Jordan's King Abdullah** in an effort to prevent a further outbreak of violence. Yesterday, just as The Jewish Federations of North America's Young Leadership Cabinet Mission met with Israel's President Isaac Herzog, it was announced that the President will make the first-ever "public and official" visit to Jordan, either by himself or by any of his predecessors since the country's founding in 1948. The visit will take place today.
- Arab-Israeli Member of Knesset **Mansour Abbas**, who leads the Islamist Ra'am Party - the first Arab party to join an Israeli government – also condemned the attack, and noted that terrorists do not distinguish between Arabs and Jews. He said, "We all stand together in the face of a murderous wave of terror."
- Israel's **Regional Cooperation Minister Esawi Frej**, Israel's second ever Arab minister and a member of the Meretz party, said he was "worried" by this week's attacks, but that the "silent majority" of Jews and Arabs in Israel could counter extremism. "The majority, we want to live together. We love life. Don't let this extremist, this murderer, win. Arabs and Jews, we have the same interests. In order to keep Israel strong, we should go hand in hand together."
- **US Secretary of State Antony Blinken**, who was in Israel when the Hadera attack took place, commented, "Such senseless acts of violence and murder have no place in society. We stand with our Israeli partners and send our condolences to the families of the victims."
- In a veiled condemnation, **Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas**, said "The killing of Israeli and Palestinian civilians will only lead to a deterioration of the situation ahead of Ramadan. We are trying to obtain some stability. This circle of violence shows true, lasting peace is the only solution to maintaining the security and stability for our peoples."
- **Hamas and Islamic Jihad** have praised the attacks. On its website, Hamas wrote, "The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) blesses the heroic operation against the Zionist occupation soldiers in the so-called 'Tel Aviv' area, which led to the killing and wounding of a number of Zionist occupiers, and stresses that all the heroic operations carried out by our Palestinian people, in every inch of our occupied land, comes in the context of the

natural and legitimate response to the terrorism of the occupation and its escalating crimes against our land, our people and our sanctities.”

The Eleven Victims – May their memories be blessed

Killed in Be'er Sheva:

- **Doris Yahbas**, 49, a mother of three
- **Laura Yitzhak**, 43, a mother of three
- **Rabbi Moshe Kravitzky**, a father of four
- **Menahem Yehezkel**, 67

Killed in Hadera:

- **Yazan Falah**, a 19 year-old Druze border police officer
- **Shirel Aboukrat**, a 19 year-old woman who served as a border police officer

Killed in Bnei Brak:

- **Yaakov Shalom**, a Bnei Brak resident and father of five
- **Rabbi Avishai Yehezkeli**, a yeshiva teacher and father of two
- **Victor Sorokopot**, 38, a foreign worker from Ukraine
- **Dimitri Mitrik**, 23, a foreign worker from Ukraine
- **Amir Khouri**, a 32-year-old Arab Christian police officer.

Four terrorists were also killed during the attacks.

Jewish Federations are monitoring the security situation carefully, including for missions and groups currently on the ground in Israel.

For more information, please contact: JFNA's Dani Wassner dani.wassner@jewishfederations.org