

11 Wounded In Israeli Bus Attack In Tel Aviv

BY TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — A knife-wielding Palestinian stabbed 11 morning commuters on and near a bus Wednesday, striking in the heart of Tel Aviv and reigniting fears of continued violence ahead of Israeli elections in March.

The attack was the latest in a spate of Palestinian attacks against Israelis over recent months, which has been largely reserved to Jerusalem but also has spilled over to the West Bank and Tel Aviv.

Tuesday's stabbing took place near a busy intersection during morning rush hour. Police identified the attacker as Hamza Mohammed Matrouk, 23, from the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Police said Matrouk confessed to the attack, saying this summer's Gaza war, tensions surrounding a Jerusalem site holy to Jews and Muslims and extremist Islamic videos promising him an "arrival to heaven" fueled the violence.

Gaza's ruling Hamas praised the attack, calling it "brave and heroic," but did not claim responsibility. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blamed Palestinian incitement for the ongoing bloodshed.

Police and witnesses said Matrouk was riding on the bus when he began stabbing passengers and the driver. He fled the bus but was chased down and shot by prison service officers nearby. They shot Matrouk in the leg and arrested him.

The bus driver, Herzl Biton, was stabbed in the upper body and liver and underwent surgery, his niece Cheli Shushan said. Witnesses said Biton used pepper spray to deter the attacker and slammed on the brakes to jar him. After being stabbed, Biton flung open the doors to allow passengers to flee.

At the scene of the attack, a Jewish head covering lay beside headphones on the floor of the bus, with blood splattered nearby.

Video aired by Israeli television station Channel 10 showed Matrouk running down the street and stabbing a woman in the back as he tried to escape.

The violence comes weeks ahead of March 17 elections, in which Netanyahu, a security hawk, is facing a challenge from a joint list headed by Isaac Herzog and Tzipi Livni, who support negotiations with the Palestinians. The continued violence could sway votes in Netanyahu's favor.

The attack sparked heated rhetoric ahead of the polls, with Herzog blaming Netanyahu for a "strong lack of personal security" among Israelis.

"The reality is very clear. There is no sense of personal security. Not in Tel Aviv, not in Jerusalem which is divided by concrete barriers."



JINI/XINHUA/ZUMA PRESS/TNS
Israeli police say they have shot a Palestinian man from the West Bank who stabbed at eleven people in an attack on bus passengers on Wednesday, in Tel Aviv, Israel. Police say they are treating the incident as a terrorist attack. Three of the victims were in a serious condition, with four others in a moderate condition and three lightly wounded, according to ambulance services.

cadres and not (in the communities) near Gaza. This is a real problem and the citizens of Israel will need to make a decision," he told Israel Radio.

The stabbing appeared to be the latest in a series of "lone-wolf" Palestinian attacks that have plagued Israel in recent months, killing about a dozen people, including five people killed with guns and meat cleavers in a bloody assault on a

Jerusalem synagogue. Police have said the attacks are almost impossible to prevent.

In Jerusalem, the violence came after months of tensions between Jews and Palestinians in east Jerusalem — the section of the city the Palestinians demand as their future capital. The area saw a wave of violence last summer, capped by a 50-day war between Israel and Hamas militants in Gaza.

Much of the recent unrest has stemmed from tensions surrounding a key holy site in Jerusalem's Old City. It is the holiest site for Jews, who call it the Temple Mount because of the revered Jewish Temples that stood there in biblical times. Muslims refer to it as the Noble Sanctuary, and it is their third holiest site, after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

Hanan Ashrawi, a senior Palestinian official, condemned the violence but said it came as a result of the Israeli occupation.

"You cannot have a violent military occupation with full impunity and then expect all its victims to be calm and quiet," she said.

Netanyahu has blamed the attacks on incitement by the Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and other Palestinian leaders.

"The terrorist attack in Tel Aviv is the direct result of the poisonous incitement being disseminated by the Palestinian Authority against the Jews and their state," he said. "This same terrorism is trying to attack us in Paris, Brussels and everywhere."

Boehner Rebuffs Obama's Iran Sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defying President Barack Obama, House Speaker John Boehner announced on Wednesday that he's invited Israel's prime minister to stand before Congress and push for new sanctions against its archenemy Iran.

Boehner's decision to bring Benjamin Netanyahu before a joint meeting of Congress on Feb. 11 seemed to catch the White House by surprise. And it added fuel to a drive by lawmakers from both parties to pass legislation calling for fresh penalties if there is no deal soon to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

Barely sworn in, the new Republican-controlled Congress is already on a collision course with Obama over a major foreign policy issue. Obama has threatened to veto any new sanctions legislation, saying it could scuttle ongoing nuclear talks with Iran and heighten the risk of a military showdown.

Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday quoted an unidentified Israeli intelligence official as saying that adding sanctions now "would be like throwing a grenade into the process."

But Boehner is not backing down. He told a private meeting of GOP lawmakers that Congress would proceed on further penalties against Iran despite Obama's warning.

Iraqi Premier Appeals For More Aid

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's prime minister on Wednesday appealed for more aid for the country's beleaguered ground forces, which have yet to score a decisive victory against the Islamic State group despite five months of U.S.-led coalition air raids.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Haider al-Abadi praised the coalition's air campaign but said the international community has stalled on commitments to train and equip the ground forces needed to retake major cities.

"We are in this almost on our own," he said. "There is a lot being said and spoken, but very little on the ground."

He spoke as he was leaving for London to take part in a meeting Thursday on the war effort with foreign ministers from about 20 countries, including Arab states. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is expected to attend.

Out On The Town

Gzeekers Sports Bar & Grill
407 Walnut, Yankton
605-689-2244

SUPER BOWL

- \$15 All-You-Can-Eat Wings
- \$15 All-You-Can-Drink Beer or Well
- \$25 All-You-Can-Eat Wings And Tap

YANKTONS only SPEAKEASY

The Copper Room

CLASSIC COCKTAILS
FEATURED DRINKS
EXCLUSIVE TAPS

222 W. 3rd St. Yankton, SD
Thursdays 6-midnight
Fridays & Saturdays 6-1

Annual
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FISH FRY

Saturday, January 24 • 5:00PM

Sponsored by: **Cooties**
Free-Will Donation Appreciated

VFW Post 791 209 Cedar

Don't Miss Our
All-You-Can-Eat Broasted Chicken & Pollock Buffet With Salad Bar
Every Wednesday 5-9pm

We will be Closed
January 20th-29th
No Chicken Buffet on
January 21 & 28.
We will reopen on
January 30th.

Joe's Substation
Rural Lesterville
605-364-7414

6th Annual
Lesterville Winter Ball
Saturday, February 7th

Social Time: 7:30-8:00pm
Dance: 8:00-Midnight
Formal attire preferred, any attire accepted.

Advance Tickets:
\$25 Couple • \$13 Single
For Advance Tickets Call 605.364.7354
At The Door: \$30/Couple; \$15 Single
Price Includes: One Beverage, Snacks, Music, Dancing, Atmosphere, Breakfast

Fundraiser for Lesterville Community Center

MOOSTASH JOE TOURS
THE GREAT SOUTHWEST TOUR 'CROWN JEWEL TOUR'

Including SAN DIEGO • LOS ANGELES • PALM SPRINGS

12 DAYS • MARCH 14-25, 2015

TOUR INCLUDES: • Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation • 11 Nights Super Accommodations • 19 Total Delicious Meals • All Admissions to 25 Great Tours and Attractions To Do and See

Dbl Occ **ONLY \$1849** from Fremont, Lincoln, Norfolk & Omaha
Single Occupancy **\$2399**

COUPON THE GREAT SOUTHWEST TOUR March 14-25, 2015
Senior Discount Coupon (55 & over) Coupon must be redeemed by February 20, 2015

\$100 OFF tour price of \$1849 with **\$1749!**
One \$100 coupon can be used for up to 4 Single Occ only \$2299

For more info, write to: MOOSTASH JOE TOURS,
PO Box 969, Fremont, NE 68026-0969 or call 402-721-7944
1-800-806-7944 OR www.mjotours.com

France Plans New Attack On Terror

PARIS (AP) — Reeling from the Paris terror attacks, France announced broad new measures to fight homegrown terrorism like giving police better equipment and hiring more intelligence agents, as European officials sought to strike the right balance between rushing through tough counterterrorism laws and protecting treasured democratic rights.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls laid out the counterterrorism initiatives just as the Paris prosecutor announced preliminary charges against four men for allegedly providing logistical support to one of the attackers behind a three-day spree of violence this month that killed 17 people before the three gunmen were shot dead by police.

France plans to spend 425 million euros (\$490 million) over the next three years for the new measures. They include leaning on Internet companies and social media to help in the fight, creating an improved database of suspected extremists, and increasing intelligence-gathering on jihadis and other radicals — in part by making it easier to tap phones. About 2,600 counter-terrorism officers will be hired, 1,100 of them specifically for intelligence services.

Yankton Youth Dart League
Technique Seminar and Workshop

Saturday, January 24th • 11AM
at Happy Hourz

Youth Dart Leagues Now Forming! 6 to 20 Years Old

A TASTE OF
New Orleans

Celebrate Mardi Gras

Join us in celebrating our
12th Annual
A TASTE OF NEW ORLEANS
From now until February 28,
enjoy Mardi Gras with
New Orleans' favorite
food and drink.

We'll be serving up Creole and Cajun specialties like
Charred Steak,
Red Snapper & Crawfish Étouffée
and the best Jambalaya
this side of the French Quarter.

Available for a limited time only.

Minervas GRILL & BAR
1607 E Hwy 50 • Yankton, SD • 605/664-2244

VFW
Post 791 209 Cedar
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Wednesday & Sunday
5-7pm Cooks Choice
Thursday
5-7pm – Domestic Beers **\$1.50**
5-7pm – Hamburger/Pizza Burger & Fries **\$5.00**
Friday
Smothered Chicken Breast
Serving 5:30-8:00
Saturday Entertainment
Cooties Fish Fry 5:00-8:00
Bingo Wed. at 7:00p.m.
Sunday at 6:30p.m.
Happy Hour M-F 4:30-7:30
Chislic Served Last Wednesday of Month

OHIYA WIN!
MEANS WIN!

WINTER WHEELS
WIN A 2014 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM!
\$34,340 MSRP
GIVEAWAY FEB 21 | 10PM
PLAY TO EARN ENTRIES NOW-FEB 21

INDIGENOUS
featuring Mato Nanji
FEB. 28 | 8PM | \$10 | 18+

CALL FOR TICKETS 402.857.3860

Stay, Play & WIN!
ONE-NIGHT STAY \$30 FREE PLAY \$20 DINING CREDIT
\$99 \$109
SUN.-THUR. FRI. & SAT.
CALL TODAY TO RESERVE

Ohiya CASINO • RESORT
SANTÉ SPA • RESTAURANT
7 MILES EAST OF NIOBRARA, NE
402.857.3860 • OHIYACASINO.COM

Open Mic Night
Every Wednesday Night 8PM!!

Riverfront Event Center, 121 W. 3rd, Yankton
So...you think you can dance, sing, tell jokes, play an instrument?
Join the fun and bring your fan club! The audience will vote on the winning act! All ages welcome!
Register each week at www.riverfronteventcenter.com

\$50 Prize Each Week with a Chance To Win a \$500 Grand Prize on March 25th! No Entry Fee.