Policeman killed, 4 injured in terror shooting on highway near Ashdod

October 15, 2024

The Times of Israel

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/policeman-killed-4-injured-in-terror-shooting-on-highway-near-ashdod/>

A policeman was killed and four people were wounded when a terrorist opened fire along the Route 4 highway north of the coastal city of Ashdod Tuesday.

The officer, who was critically wounded in the attack, died of his injuries on the way to the hospital, medical officials and police said.

Assuta Medical Center said it was treating an individual who was moderately hurt by pieces of his car window that were shattered by gunfire, and two others who were lightly hurt, including a doctor who stopped his car to treat the injured and was hit by another car.

Another injured person was taken to Kaplan Medical Center.

According to an initial probe, police said the terrorist approached the road on foot, firing at the officer, then injured the other four before being shot by a Magen David Adom ambulance service volunteer who happened to be at the scene.

“I was driving and I saw a person with a gun standing on the road,” the volunteer told the Kan public broadcaster. “At first I thought it was a policeman, and then he fired a few shots at me. I ducked, and immediately after that I jumped out of my car, drew my gun, and shot him.”

The road was reopened after traffic was temporarily halted immediately after the attack.

According to Channel 12 news, the identity of the attacker has not been determined yet, indicating he did not have a record, and may have crossed over illegally from the West Bank.

An eyewitness to the attack told Channel 12 that he was driving when he saw the attacker spray bullets in every direction.

“I began to flee. I didn’t understand what was going on. Suddenly, someone got out of their vehicle and fired at him,” the witness said.

The incident is the latest in a string of deadly deadly attacks as Jewish Israelis mark the High Holidays.

Last Wednesday, a man was [killed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/man-dies-of-injuries-sustained-in-hadera-terror-stabbing/) in a terror-stabbing rampage in Hadera.

Days earlier, Sgt. Shira Suslik, 19, a Border Police officer, was [killed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/border-cop-killed-10-wounded-in-terror-shooting-attack-at-beersheba-central-bus-station/) by a gunman at the central bus station in Beersheba. Ten other people were wounded in the attack.

Earlier this month, seven people were [killed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/six-people-killed-nine-wounded-in-shooting-stabbing-terror-attack-in-jaffa/) and at least eight were wounded in a shooting and stabbing attack in Jaffa, one of the deadliest terror attacks in Israel in recent years.

In a statement, National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir’s office said a greater disaster was averted on Tuesday due to the minister’s easing of private gun ownership restrictions, adding that the civilian who shot the attacker had received his private gun three months earlier.