Young boy killed, several bus passengers wounded in West Bank terror shooting

December 12, 2024

By [Alexander Fulbright](https://www.timesofisrael.com/writers/alexander-fulbright/)

The Times of Israel

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/young-boy-killed-several-bus-passengers-wounded-in-west-bank-terror-shooting/>

A young boy was fatally shot and several people were wounded in a terror attack targeting a Jerusalem-bound bus in the West Bank late Wednesday night.

The 12-year-old child was brought in critical condition to Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem in nearby Jerusalem, where doctors declared his death early Thursday following intensive efforts to save him.

He was later named as Yehoshua Aharon Tuvia Simha of the Beitar Illit settlement — from where the bus had departed.

Three others were hurt in the shooting: a woman who suffered moderate wounds and two other people who were lightly hurt.

The bus was shot up by the gunman at a junction by the Palestinian town of al-Khader, the Israel Defense Forces said, before proceeding with the wounded to the Tunnels Checkpoint.

The Palestinian terrorist turned himself in, Israeli defense authorities said on Thursday morning.

The IDF, Shin Bet, and police said he did so amid their “exertion of military pressure in the area” — including by encircling Bethlehem.

He was named as Ezz Aldin Malluh from the town of Bayt Awa near Hebron.

He initially tried to turn himself in at a Palestinian Authority police station in the area, where his weapon was taken from him but he was refused entry.

Contrary to some reports, authorities said, he was not afforded protection at any stage by the PA security forces.

A video clip filmed shortly after the shooting showed passengers fleeing the bus after it arrived at the checkpoint, as security forces there rushed toward the vehicle amid the sound of gunfire. It was not clear from the footage where all the shots emanated from.

The attack came after three Israelis were lightly injured by gunfire the previous night while visiting Joseph’s Tomb in the Palestinian city of Nablus without coordinating with the military, and also followed a car-ramming attack in the southern West Bank over the weekend in which a soldier was seriously wounded.

Violence has risen sharply in the West Bank since the Gaza war started on October 7, 2023, when thousands of Hamas-led terrorists stormed southern Israel to kill some 1,200 people and take 251 hostages.

Since then, 42 people, including Israeli security personnel, have been killed in terror attacks in Israel and the West Bank.

Another six members of the security forces were killed in clashes with operatives in the West Bank amid a major counterterrorism offensive that has been accompanied by sharp restrictions on Palestinian movement.

Israeli troops have arrested some 5,250 wanted Palestinians across the West Bank as part of the post-October 7 military operations, including more than 2,050 affiliated with Hamas.

According to the Palestinian Authority health ministry, some 800 West Bank Palestinians have been killed in the same span of time. The IDF says the vast majority of them were gunmen killed in exchanges of fire, rioters who clashed with troops or terrorists carrying out attacks.