Two wounded, one seriously, in terror stabbing at hotel west of Jerusalem

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By Charlie Summers and Diana Bletter

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A Palestinian man stabbed and wounded two people in a suspected terror attack at a hotel in Kibbutz Tzuba near Jerusalem on Friday, police and medics said.

The wounded are a 50-year-old man, seriously injured, and a 23-year-old man, moderately injured. Both were conscious and suffering from stab wounds, the hospital said.

The assailant was an employee of the hotel, with a history of security offenses, according to the police. He is from Shuafat in East Jerusalem.

Three other people have been arrested, and are suspected of involvement in the incident, the police said.

Hamas praised the incident as a “heroic stabbing attack” that deals a “new blow to the occupation’s security apparatus.” However, the terror group did not take responsibility for the stabbing.

Channel 12 reported, citing eyewitnesses, that the attacker took a knife from the hotel kitchen and shouted “Allahu akbar” before perpetrating the attack.

Ynet reported, also citing witnesses, that he shouted he wanted to die.

The assailant was subdued and arrested by an off-duty police investigator staying at the hotel.

The officer who arrested the attacker had been at a family event at the hotel, where he noticed a mass of people fleeing the building. After heading in the direction from which the civilians fled, he spotted the terrorist and confronted him.

“I overpowered the terrorist with my hands rather than gunfire to reduce the danger to the civilians at the scene,” the officer said. “With the help of other brave civilians, I laid him on the floor and restrained him.”

David and Itzik Razani, who helped subdue the terrorist, told Ynet: “We tied him up with the belts of our pants.”

One of the injured stabbing victims was the officer’s cousin, according to a police statement.

Magen David Adom paramedics arrived at the scene of the stabbing to find the 23-year-old, who’d been stabbed, sitting in the hotel’s parking lot. He was taken to the hospital in moderate condition.

Paramedics later found the 50-year-old in the hotel dining room, suffering from a stab wound to the chest.

Both were taken to Hadassah Medical Center in Ein Kerem, which said in a statement that both men are conscious.

Jerusalem District police commander Amir Arzani conducted a situational assessment at the scene of the attack.