Eight lightly hurt in suspected terror stabbing near Modiin; assailant shot dead

September 22, 2022

By Emanuel Fabian

The Times of Israel

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/eight-hurt-in-suspected-terror-stabbing-near-modiin-assailant-shot-dead/>

Eight Israelis were lightly hurt in a suspected terror stabbing attack near the central Israeli city of Modiin on Thursday evening, medics and police said.

Officials said the assailant stopped his vehicle at a traffic light, close to the Shilat junction, and began to open car doors and attack people with a knife and pepper spray.

According to the Magen David Adom ambulance service, two men in separate cars — aged 39 and 23 — were treated for minor stab wounds to their hands.

Another five people — passengers of the two cars — were treated by MDA medics after being maced with pepper spray.

The attacker was shot dead by an off-duty Border Police officer who was in the area, police said.

MDA added that the officer was also treated for a minor injury.

Police officials said the assailant was a 22-year-old Palestinian from the Ramallah area. In a separate statement, police said he was a resident of East Jerusalem.

Police described the incident as a terror attack. The Shilat Junction is close to the West Bank security barrier.

Speaking to Israel Police Commissioner Kobi Shabtai, the Border Police officer,  Sgt. Maj. ‘Dalet’ — identified only by his rank and initial of his first name in Hebrew — said he saved his partner from being stabbed.

“I was at a red light so I slowed down. Just as I was stopping, I saw a man running on the shoulder toward the car. He opened my partner’s door and tried to stab her,” Dalet said in a video published by police.

“I hit the gas, stopped the vehicle nearby, and got out and shot him,” he said.

The incident came hours after a suspected car-ramming attack against Israeli troops in the northern West Bank.

A Palestinian man hit a soldier stationed near Huwara with his car, lightly injuring him, according to the Israel Defense Forces.

Troops opened fire at the vehicle, and the driver crashed. He was arrested and taken for further questioning.

The military initially believed the incident was an accident, but later said it was still probing the matter.

The incidents come at a time of rising violence in the West Bank, particularly in the northern area.

Earlier Thursday, shots were fired early toward the West Bank settlement of Har Bracha near Nablus and a nearby military post, the IDF said.

Palestinian gunmen in recent months have targeted numerous military posts, troops operating along the West Bank security barrier, and Israeli civilians on the roads.

Israeli security officials have warned in recent months that the Palestinian Authority is losing control of the northern West Bank.