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Israel buries dead after suicide bomber kills self, 11 others

JERUSALEM (AP) — A 13-year-old Israeli girl who loved to draw was buried at sunset Thursday on a Jerusalem hilltop, one of 11 people killed when a Palestinian man blew himself up on a crowded bus. Four of the dead were children.

It was the first attack in Jerusalem since August, and the bomber's hometown — Bethlehem — braced for retaliation.

Late Thursday, the army ordered residents of about 30 homes in el-Khader, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, to leave their homes so the army could take up positions, residents said.

The army confirmed soldiers were operating in el-Khader, and an adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Raanan Gissin, said the Israeli Cabinet had decided the army would carry out a "pinpoint operation," which would include entering Bethlehem.

Two militant Islamic groups claimed responsibility for Thursday morning's bomb attack: Islamic Jihad and Hamas. Gissin said Hamas would be the group targeted.

Hamas participated in talks with Egypt and Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement to negotiate a freeze on Palestinian attacks at least until Israel's Jan. 28 election. A first round of talks in Cairo ended inconclusively.

A continuation of bombings and shootings would strengthen Israel's right-wing parties going into the elections.

Among the dead were four children: two 13-year-olds, an 8-year-old boy who died along with his grandmother, and a 16-year-old boy whose mother also was killed.

Hodaya Asaraf, an 8th grader at a Jerusalem arts school, was the first to be buried. Shortly after sunset, the 13-year-old was laid to rest at a hilltop cemetery amid the wails of her mother.

"Her friends said the last thing she drew were leaves," said a teacher, Chena Ben-Yaakov. "The leaf has fallen."

Passengers and police said the bomber boarded bus No. 20 and detonated the explosives belt at about 7:10 a.m., as the bus was stopped in Jerusalem's Kiryat Menachem neighborhood, police said.

The blast blew out the bus windows and sent glass shards and body parts flying. Hours later, a man's arms dangled from a broken bus window and a torso was covered with a blue and white checkered blanket.

Maor Kimche, 15, was

Bus attack kills 11

A suicide bomber blew himself up on a Jerusalem city bus this morning, killing 11 passengers.



SOURCES: Associated Press, EFR

among those on the bus were students, soldiers and the elderly.

"Suddenly, it was black and smoky. There were people on the floor. Everything was bloody. There was glass everywhere and body parts," Kimche said.

The 10th grader jumped out of a bus window and was scooped up by a taxi driver who took him to Hadassah Hospital, where he was treated for a leg injury.

He said he'd ride the bus again. "How else will I get to school?" he asked.

Eleven people were killed and at least 48 wounded, some of them seriously. Israeli officials declined to give a breakdown.

Israeli police identified the bomber as Nael Abu Hilal.

Abu Hilal's father, Ahmad, said he was pleased with his son. "Our religion says we are proud of him until the day of resurrection," Abu Hilal said. "This is a challenge to the Zionist enemies."

He said Israeli troops had arrested another son and nephew after the bombing.

Several of Nael Abu Hilal's friends said he was a supporter of Islamic Jihad. President Bush condemned the bombing, saying the goal of the United States is to see independent states — Israel and Palestine — living side by side in peace.

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Editor THE BATTALION
— Including radio and online editions —
Spring 2003
(The spring editor will serve from Jan. 6 through May 9, 2003)

Qualifications for editor in chief of *The Battalion* are:

- Be a Texas A&M student in good standing with the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours (4 if a graduate student) during the term of office (unless fewer credits are required to graduate);
- Have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point ratio (3.00 if a graduate student) and at least a 2.00 grade point ratio (3.00 if a graduate student) in the semester immediately prior to the appointment, the semester of appointment and semester during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (4 if a graduate student) must have been taken for that semester;
- Have completed JOUR 301 (Mass Communication, Law and Society), or equivalent;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable daily college newspaper,
 - OR —
 - Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper,
 - OR —
 - Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to Dell Bomnskie, Student Media business coordinator, in room 011A Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: noon Tuesday, December 3, 2002.

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