Armed Palestinian arrested at West Bank checkpoint: ‘I came to kill Jews’

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<https://www.timesofisrael.com/armed-palestinian-arrested-at-west-bank-checkpoint-i-came-to-kill-jews/>

A 19-year-old Palestinian was arrested Friday after he aroused the suspicions of security guards at a crossing into Israel, who searched him and found he was carrying a knife.

The man, from the West Bank city of Qalqilya, was held after he was stopped at the Eliyahu crossing.

Upon questioning, the man told guards at the checkpoint: “I came here to kill Jews,” the Defense Ministry said. He was arrested and taken for interrogation.

On Thursday [two people were injured in a stabbing attack](https://www.timesofisrael.com/condition-of-idf-reservist-stabbed-in-face-during-terror-attack-improves/) outside a West Bank army base. A 30-year-old reservist soldier is in stable condition after undergoing facial surgery. A civilian woman, 26, was lightly injured in the leg by shrapnel from shots fired at the assailant who fled the scene.

IDF troops aided by Shin Bet and Border Police forces captured the suspected assailant, a 19-year-old Palestinian from the northern West Bank village of Jamma’in, just hours after the attack.

The stabbing occurred just after 1:30 p.m. Thursday outside the Shomron Regional Brigade headquarters near the Itamar settlement, the Israel Defense Forces said. Other IDF soldiers on the scene opened fire at the assailant.

The two victims were taken to Beilinson Hospital for treatment.

On Sunday, a Palestinian terrorist shot and killed two of his coworkers — Kim Levengrond Yehezkel and Ziv Hajbi — and wounded a third, Sara Vaturi, in the northern West Bank’s Barkan Industrial Park where he was employed.

The suspect, Ashraf Na’alowa, fled the scene and has eluded capture, according to the Israeli military. The [hunt for the suspected terrorist](https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-makes-fresh-arrests-as-manhunt-for-barkan-killer-enters-sixth-day/)entered its seventh day Saturday.

“Operations aimed at apprehending the terrorist who carried out the shooting attack in Barkan continue,” the IDF Spokesperson’s Unit said in a statement. “Several new suspects have been arrested in the Manasseh Regional Brigade area.”

The IDF’s Manasseh brigade is responsible for the Tulkarem and Jenin regions, including Na’alowa’s home village of Shuweika.

On Thursday, Na’alowa’s sister Fayrouz was arrested at her home in the West Bank city of Nablus in connection with the manhunt for her brother, the Shin Bet said. Fayrouz had previously been questioned by Israeli forces, but was released. Na’alowa’s brother was arrested the day after the attack.

The Shin Bet refused to say on what grounds Fayrouz had been arrested. Na’alowa’s mother and other sisters were also detained and brought in for questioning following the attack, but were later released.

Officials reportedly believe that Na’alowa, who is said to have left a suicide note before the attack, is preparing to engage troops when they close in on him in a firefight that could turn deadly.

On Friday a [Palestinian woman was killed](https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-said-killed-in-west-bank-crash-caused-by-settler-stone-throwing/) after a group of Jewish settlers reportedly threw rocks at the vehicle she was riding in, a rights group and Palestinian media said. Police announced Saturday morning that they have opened an investigation into the incident.