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## IDF reinforces Jerusalem after suicide bombing. Policeman critical 19 others hurt in early morning blast

**BYLINE:** Etgar Lefkovits And Arie O'Sullivan News Agencies Contributed To This Report.

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Hundreds of additional soldiers will patrol the capital's streets today after a **Palestinian suicide bomber** disguised as a **haredi** blew himself up in downtown Jerusalem yesterday wounding 20 one seriously in the fifth bombing to rock the city in the last 48 hours.

Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said last night that Hamas was responsible.

Police said that a far worse disaster was averted when two border policemen - alerted to the terrorist by a passerby - approached the bomber who apparently was on his way to a busy intersection or eatery.

The decision made to bolster the police presence in the city with soldiers was made during an afternoon emergency meeting at the Defense Ministry.

"We see that the terrorist groups want to focus their activity on the city and that is why the move was taken said Yarden Vatikai, spokesman for Ben-Eliezer.

In addition to aiding police patrol, the IDF is also to set up roadblocks and seal it off to Arabs who don't have permits to be in Israel.

The IDF is also expected to deploy along little-patrolled back roads on the city's outskirts in an effort to prevent the smuggling in of weapons and bombs. The deployment is meant to last as long as necessary."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon who is in Russia ordered a series of security measures following the attack and again blamed Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for not halting terrorism.

"You know our basic position in the fight against terrorism Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the start of his Kremlin talks with Sharon. Nothing can justify terrorist acts against civilians."

Arafat also condemned the attack after a meeting with EU envoy Javier Solana in Gaza.

"You must understand that I am saddened about the Israeli civilians wounded in the attack in Jerusalem and in other attacks in which innocent Israelis and Palestinians are hurt Arafat said.

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Solana denounced the shocking and disgraceful terror attack" and called on the PA to do everything possible to prevent further attacks.

He visited the site and was jeered by residents who shouted Take your suitcases and get out and to "Go to Durban."

The 7: 45 a.m. bombing took place on Jerusalem's Rehov Hanevi'im next to Bikur Holim Hospital and a block from the site of the August 9 bombing at the Sbarro pizzeria.

The injured received burns and wounds from nails screws and shards of metal contained in the bomb.

One minute before the explosion two border policemen on routine foot patrol alerted by a suspicious passerby ran up to the terrorist and ordered him to stop.

In a split second he detonated his bomb which was hidden inside a large backpack he was wearing.

The force of the blast sent parts of his body flying dozens of meters hurled the policemen to the ground and set two nearby cars ablaze.

The terrorist's severed head landed in the courtyard of the Lycee Francais where police covered it with an empty garbage bin to keep it out of the sight of the horrified schoolchildren.

Natan Sandaka 21 the border policemen who was closest to the terrorist suffered a punctured lung and severe burns and was reported in critical condition at Hadassah-University Hospital Ein Kerem where he was still unconscious late last night.

"I was in the emergency room and heard a tremendous explosion said Yael Aharon, a nurse at Bikur Holim who raced outside the hospital to help the wounded. Immediately I knew it was a bombing. I saw pieces of human flesh lying on the ground and I rushed up to a wounded man who had dropped off his wife at the hospital just minutes before and helped him to the emergency room."

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Mickey Levy told reporters that "undoubtedly" a much greater disaster would have occurred had the terrorist succeeded in entering a crowded area. He said this was foiled "by the bravery of the border policemen."

Levy noted that police and security officials had been out in full force on the streets due to a weekend warning of impending terror attacks.

Pierre Weill a journalist for Radio France stationed here for the past 11 years had just dropped off his 12- year-old daughter at the French school.

"She had just entered when the bombing occurred Weill said. The force of the blast sent the kamikaze's head flying into the courtyard of the school."

His daughter was treated for a minor leg wound trauma and dizziness at Bikur Holim.

Others like Michal Kafri were on their way to work. An adviser to Education Minister Limor Livnat she was talking to her nearby office on her cellphone when he bomb went off just in front of her car.

"I cannot really begin to grasp my luck. It was a question of seconds literally the seventh-generation Jerusalemite and mother of two said, as she received a hug from her boss who came to visit her in the hospital.

I can tell you this with certainty: We are in a war she said.

Zion Reuveni, 60, had narrowly escaped injury in the Sbarro bombing. Yesterday, his wife dropped him off just down the block from the bombing.

It looks like God is smiling down on me " he said.

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And in a sign of how life goes on despite the terror a sign on the Sbarro pizzeria yesterday read: "Reopening Wednesday September 12."

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**GRAPHIC:** Photo: Bomb-squad personnel comb through the wreckage of a car damaged in yesterday's early-morning suicide bombing in Jerusalem. (Credit: Ariel Jerozolimski The Jerusalem Post)

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BBC Monitoring Middle East - Political  
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring**September** 4, 2001, TuesdayMideast: Jerusalem **suicide** bomb attack toll rises  
to 12 wounded**SOURCE:** Voice of Israel, Jerusalem, in Hebrew 0600 gmt 4 Sep 01**LENGTH:** 263 words

Text of report by Israel radio on 4 September.

A **suicide bomber** blew himself up near Biqur Holim Hospital in downtown Jerusalem. Twelve people were wounded. One is in serious condition, his life is endangered, and he will be transferred to Hadassah En Kerem Hospital. One casualty sustained medium to serious wounds, five have light to medium wounds, and five have light injuries, our correspondent Ofra Nehmad reports. Biqur Holim Hospital has set up an information centre.

The police's initial investigation shows that the **suicide bomber** carried on his body a large bomb which contained nails and screws. He blew himself up when two border policemen approached him following reports by passers-by that he looked **suspicious**. Our correspondent Nurit Kanetti reports that the terrorist carried a backpack and donned a skullcap.

Senior members of the prime minister's entourage in Moscow accused the PNA Palestinian National Authority of responsibility for the attack because they say it does not do anything to prevent terrorism and arrest the **suicide bombers**, our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menaheh reports.

Near Ofra, Palestinians opened fire at a bus belonging to the society for developing the Mate Binyamin region. Nobody was hurt and the driver continued his journey. Shots were also fired at an IDF Israel Defence Forces roadblock at the Jit junction west of Nablus. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. In the Gaza Strip, 10 fragmentation grenades were hurled last night at an IDF outpost near Rafah. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

**LOAD-DATE:** September 4, 2001**LANGUAGE:** English

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