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Israel/Occupied Territories: Amnesty International condemns suicide bombing of civilians

Amnesty International strongly condemns today's triple suicide-bombing in Jerusalem which according to reports killed up to eight and wounded more than 150 people. Among the dead may be three suicide attackers.

Three bombs exploded shortly after each other in the Ben Yehuda main pedestrian mall in West Jerusalem. In an anonymous phone call, the military wing of the Islamic resistance Movement, *Hamas*, claimed responsibility for the attack.

"We once again call on *Hamas* and other armed groups to immediately stop this deliberate and arbitrary targeting of civilians. Such killings are an abuse of fundamental principles of international humanitarian law," Amnesty International said today. "The right to life is a fundamental right which must be respected by all. There has to be an end to these acts."

The international human rights organization repeated its call to the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority to adhere strictly to international human rights standards and humanitarian principles in any response it makes to these attacks.

"Abuses, however gross, by armed opposition groups should never be an excuse for authorities to violate human rights." Amnesty International said.
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