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ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES/PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY: AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNS ATTACK ON CIVILIANS

Amnesty International condemns yesterday's killing of a mother and her son in an attack claimed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

"The PFLP should stop such attacks immediately. The deliberate killing of civilians can never be justified under any circumstances," Amnesty International said today.

Gunmen killed Etta Tzur and her 12-year-old son Ephraim in a drive-by shooting which took place near the Jewish settlement town of Beit El and the Palestinian Authority-ruled town of Ramallah in the West Bank on 11 December. The father of the family and four other children were wounded in the attack.

The day after the attack Maher al-Taher, the spokesperson for the Damascus-based PFLP, confirmed responsibility for the attack which occurred on the anniversary of the founding of the PFLP in 1968.

Amnesty International also urges the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority to adhere strictly to international human rights and humanitarian standards in any measure they may take in response to this attack. Human rights abuses by opposition groups can never justify abandonment of international human rights principles and those arrested should be treated according to international standards including those prohibiting torture and ill-treatment.

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