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Israel and the Occupied Territories: Jerusalem bombing -- targeting of civilians must stop

Amnesty International has condemned today's car bombing in Mahane Yehuda market in West Jerusalem which killed two suicide bombers and injured 21 other people.

Hamas (the Islamic Resistance Movement) has reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. Amnesty International has frequently appealed to *Hamas* in the past to end attacks on civilian targets.

"We condemn these deliberate and arbitrary attacks on civilians which violate fundamental humanitarian principles," Amnesty International said. "We once again appeal to all groups to stop the targeting of civilians immediately."

At the same time, the organization is calling on the Israeli government and Palestinian Authority (PA) to adhere strictly to international human rights and humanitarian standards in actions taken in response to the attack.

"Human rights should not be sacrificed in the name of security," Amnesty International said, while also urging the international community, especially the United States, not to condone human rights violations -- including torture and detention without trial -- in the quest for peace.

"Human rights abuses by opposition groups can never justify the violation of fundamental human rights by the authorities," Amnesty International said, "just as human rights violations committed by the authorities cannot justify the arbitrary and deliberate killing of civilians."

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