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Amnesty International condemns suicide bombings

Amnesty International today deplored the double suicide-bombing which killed 15 and wounded more than 150 people in the Mahane Yehuda outdoor market in West Jerusalem yesterday.

The organization is again calling on *Hamas*, whose 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam brigades have reportedly claimed responsibility for the bombings, to cease such attacks.

“We are appalled at the total disregard for civilian lives shown in such an attack,” the organization said. “Amnesty International reiterates its call to *Hamas* and other armed opposition movements to stop all deliberate and arbitrary targeting of civilians, which violates fundamental principles of humanitarian law.”

The international human rights organization called on the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority to adhere strictly to international human rights standards and humanitarian principles in bringing those responsible for ordering these attacks to justice.

“We understand the horror caused by such attacks on civilians,” Amnesty International said. “However, it is all the more important that respect for human rights principles should be unconditional.”

The organization urged Israel and the Palestinian Authority to ensure that those arrested after the bombings are not tortured or ill-treated, have access to lawyers and are brought to justice promptly on recognizable criminal charges or released.

“In this difficult time, it is vital that both authorities refrain from human rights violations including arbitrary arrests, torture and prolonged detention without trial. It is only by ensuring human rights that we can build a human rights culture among all the people and end the terrible losses of civilian lives in the region,” Amnesty International said.

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