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www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

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Robert Inlakesh

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Tel Aviv bus bombings: False flag or Netanyahu's luck?

On Thursday night, three explosive devices detonated on buses in Tel Aviv, causing chaos and a public frenzy. While the issue has been weaponized by the Israeli government to expand its ongoing assault on the West Bank, no group has claimed responsibility. A senior Hamas official has informed The Cradle of their suspicions that the event could have been a false-flag attack.



Photo Credit: The Cradle

At 8:30 PM on Thursday night, an Israeli firefighting department [said that "a report was received about a bus explosion in a bus parking lot" on Ha'amal Street in Bat Yam, southern Tel Aviv. Later reports suggested that a passenger had notified the bus driver that a suspicious package had been left inside the vehicle, triggering an emergency evacuation, after which an explosive device detonated the backside of the bus.](#)

The event occurred in a parking lot only a few hundred meters away from two buses, dozens of meters apart, that had also exploded shortly prior [in the parking lot for the Bat Yam Stadium and Bat Yam Country Club](#). The two vehicles were parked in open areas, not beside

the other buses that were parked next to each other, exploding at a time when nobody was within distance.

Following this, it was reported that the Israeli authorities had discovered two more bombs planted on buses. One explosive device was said to have been neutralized on a bus near the Wolfson Hospital in the industrial hub of Holon, located over 4 kilometers away from the previous explosions. Another explosive device was also announced to have been on a bus in Yimit 2000, before it was [later ruled out as unconnected](#).

Soon after, there were reports of suspicious activity at Israel's Haganah train station and [suspicious cargo on the light rail](#) that was soon ruled out but didn't stop a shutdown of all transportation by 10PM that same night. However, it was reported that a "suspect" in the bombing case was pursued at Tel Aviv's Haganah station and had even [fled onto the train tracks to avoid arrest](#).

A photo of an improvised explosive device (IED) located on a bus in the Holon area was quickly [published in the Hebrew media](#) and, in Arabic, said "Revenge for Tulkarem." The entire event ended without a single casualty, not even a light injury.

A series of "miracles"

The explanation that the Israeli authorities have offered as to why the bombs went off prematurely is that the timers were incorrectly set. This conclusion was drawn within hours and communicated to the Hebrew media, claiming that the [intended time of detonation was 9 AM on Friday](#), but instead, they were programmed for 9 PM on Thursday night. Yet, the incident was first reported at 8:30 PM, as noted above, which calls into question this explanation.

The passenger who noticed the bomb on the third bus that was blown up - on Ha'amal Street in Bat Yam - told the media that, following the evacuation of the bus, "[as everyone was moving away, the explosion occurred](#)." This has widely been accepted by Israelis as a "miracle."

Another "miracle" was that the first two buses also happened to not only detonate when nobody was around, but both happened to be [parked several meters away from other buses](#) that were clearly lined up next to each other. This made it so that no other buses were blown up, and the overall damage costs were kept to a minimum.

The assailant/s who planted the bomb that was neutralized also happened to write a note in Arabic that left a possible motive. This IED was not only laced with a clue, that would have disappeared had it exploded, but is indicative of someone who wanted their work to be known. Yet, no group has actually claimed the attack.

Israel's ongoing invasion of the northern West Bank, which began in January, has led to the murder of around 100 Palestinians, and in the Tulkarem Refugee Camp in particular, [some 75% of its residents have been forced from their homes](#). However, the Israeli army's campaign is yet to inflict a defeat on the armed groups operating there.

Another strange development was two vague statements released on Telegram by the Qassam Brigades' Tulkarem branch, hinting at what occurred in Tel Aviv and threatening painful blows in the future. This has served as evidence of Hamas's involvement in the bombings.

The Cradle was informed by a senior figure in the Hamas movement that it has not issued any statements claiming responsibility and that reports otherwise are false.

The current Israeli assessment points the finger at Hamas, claiming that [Iran was behind the planned attack](#) and had coordinated it with a Hamas cell operating in the occupied West Bank. This is the current narrative that is [making headlines in Israeli Hebrew media](#).

Intriguingly, [two Israeli suspects were arrested](#) by Israeli intelligence in connection with the bombings. According to a Channel 12 News report, one of the Jewish Israeli suspects is said to have helped transport those who planted the explosive devices. The detained Israeli citizen is allegedly set to appear behind closed doors at the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court and is being denied access to a lawyer, while interrogations are ongoing to determine whether the "[Israeli Jew from Gush Dan](#)" knew about the intentions of who he was transporting.

Responding to the accusations, Bassem Naim, a leading member of the Hamas politburo, told *The Cradle* the following:

"Based on the timing and the way in which it happened, the first possibility for me is that Netanyahu or members of his government escaped from their obligations in the ceasefire agreement and created an external enemy to relieve the increasing internal pressure. Anyone who reads the history of the Zionist movement will find dozens of proven events that were planned and executed by Zionist elements against Jews themselves."

Lending credit to the allegations of the Hamas official are the apparent issues with the coordination of the bombings. The armed groups inside the West Bank have not proven themselves capable of pulling off these kinds of attacks before, showing minimal military sophistication. On the other hand, by Israel's own admission, this was a well-planned operation that evaded detection by the Israeli army and Shin Bet, hence the blame being placed on Tehran.

At the same time, it was also so poorly executed that it left a letter of intent, as if expecting one of the explosives to fail upon detonation, also messing up the timing so terribly that three IEDs exploded prematurely, and all were placed on buses that just so happen to have been

isolated from anything else. On top of this, there's no group that has actually claimed responsibility.

Netanyahu's favourable coincidences

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has emerged from the bus bombings to push for harsher military measures inside the occupied West Bank, ordering the deployment of more army battalions into the territory. He has also taken the opportunity to weaponize the incident against the Gaza ceasefire.

The internal [blame for Israel's failure to thwart the attack](#) is now also being placed upon the Shin Bet, the head of which is Ronen Bar and has [been at loggerheads with PM Netanyahu](#) for some time and was even recently demoted from his role in managing the Gaza ceasefire talks.

The Israeli Premier has also announced a "[massive counter-terror operation](#)" in the West Bank, right as the current invasion of the northern West Bank, dubbed "Operation Iron Wall," was said to be coming to an end.

Also, on Thursday, an anonymous figure was cited by Israeli media as claiming that Benjamin Netanyahu will [not allow the Gaza ceasefire to enter into its second phase](#). The goal of the Israeli leader has been to extend the first phase of the tripartite ceasefire agreement in a bid to [save his political career](#).

In a rather bizarre media stunt, Netanyahu gave one of his three public addresses this Friday from inside a Palestinian family's home in Tulkarem. After forcing Palestinians out of their house, it was taken over to be used as a military position, from which the Israeli PM [stated](#) that "we are entering the terrorist strongholds, clearing entire streets used by terrorists, their homes. We are eliminating terrorists and commanders."

The bus bombings in Tel Aviv granted Netanyahu the ability to attack his internal opposition while blaming Hamas, Iran, and the West Bank's armed resistance groups. The attack itself resulted in minimal material damage, not even so much as a light injury, granting a mandate for military escalation based upon the premise that if the bombings were successful, there would be hundreds of casualties.

An accumulation of coincidences, holes in the official narrative, and what Israeli media call "miracles" have all led to accusations of the incident being a false-flag attack. There is still no conclusive evidence to prove this assertion, yet with Israel imposing censorship on the issue, various outstanding questions are yet to be answered.

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