

3 Way Reporting- The Itamar Massacre

Aim of Session:

Teens will be introduced to the tragic story of the Itamar Massacre from 2011.

There are 3 reports on the tragedy in this pack:

1. BBC
2. New York Times
3. Ynet

The Aim of the session is for teens to see how the news reports can be varied depending on the angle they are coming from and the bias they may have.

Compare the reports with your groups and use the discussion questions to talk about what this means, what we should be aware of and what we can do.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ What do you notice are the main differences and similarities between each article?
- ❖ Which report seemed the most balanced? Why?
- ❖ Which report had the most emotional language?
- ❖ Compare the language used in the articles. Does one article use stronger or more forceful language?
- ❖ Did you notice a bias in any of the reports? Which one?
- ❖ What can you do if a story is not being *reported* honestly?

Thinking Ahead:

You can direct your teens to www.honestreporting.com this website keeps track of all the media that is biased against Israel. It is a good website for keeping aware and also actually reporting media bias yourself.

This website introduction will give teens a chance to be advocates themselves.

'Palestinian' kills five Israelis in West Bank

BBC
WORLD
NEWS



Israeli troops have launched a manhunt after five members of a Jewish settler family were killed in the West Bank

Officials have blamed Palestinians for the overnight attack, which left a couple, two children and a baby dead in the Itamar settlement, near Nablus.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said the government would do everything possible to protect its citizens.

The incident comes as peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians have ground to a halt.

The family - including three children - were stabbed to death by an intruder who broke into their home, Israeli media reported.

Army radio reported that two other children had been spared, while a third had discovered the killings when she arrived home.

A statement on behalf of Mr Netanyahu said: "Israel will act vigorously to defend the Israeli population and to punish the murderers.

"The prime minister demands that the Palestinian Authority and its head find and punish the authors of this attack."

International law

The Itamar settlement was the target of a previous attack, in 2002, in which five Israelis were killed and several injured in an attack by a Palestinian gunman.

US-brokered peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians stalled last year over the issue of Israeli settlement building.

Palestinians have refused all direct contact with Israel until construction is frozen.

Nearly half a million Jews live in more than 100 settlements built since Israel's 1967 occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

They are held to be illegal under international law, although Israel disputes this.

The New York Times

2 Palestinian Teens Held in Killing of Israeli Family



By ISABEL KERSHNER

Published: April 17, 2011

AWARTA, West Bank — Israeli officials announced on Sunday the arrest of two [Palestinian](#) teenagers from this village in the northern [West Bank](#) who they said were responsible for [the killing of five members of the Fogel family](#) in the neighboring Jewish settlement of Itamar last month.



Israeli security officials said that the two suspects, ages 17 and 18, had confessed and carried out a reconstruction of the attack.

The announcement was greeted with disbelief in Awarta, where many of the residents, including relatives of the suspects, have condemned the brutal killing of Ehud Fogel, who was known as Udi; his wife, Ruth; and three of their children, Yoav, 11, Elad, 4, and Hadas, a baby girl of 3 months.

Two other young children who were sleeping in the house were unharmed. An older sister, Tamar, 12, had been out at a youth activity at the time of the killings and returned to discover the bodies.

The prime minister of [Israel](#), [Benjamin Netanyahu](#), commended the security forces on their effort. “For the family, this is not a complete answer, but without it they could not be given even a partial answer,” he said.

Israeli security forces had been combing the village of Awarta for weeks after the March 11 attack. The attack shocked Israelis across the political spectrum and was [denounced](#) by leaders of the [Palestinian Authority](#), including President [Mahmoud Abbas](#).

The younger of the two suspects, Hakim Awad, was arrested on April 5. That led to the arrest of the second suspect, Amjad Awad, a distant cousin, five days later, according to Israeli officials.

[The investigation](#) was carried out jointly by the Israeli military, the Shin Bet internal security agency and the police. But there were variations in some of the details of the investigation from the different bodies.

The Shin Bet said in a statement that the two suspects, a high school pupil and a first-year student at [The Open University](#), were identified with a Palestinian leftist militant group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, although it was not clear whether the organization had any role in the attack.

The Shin Bet emphasized that the attack had been planned and that days before the suspects had tried to obtain a gun through a Popular Front member in Awarta who refused to help.

But Col. Nimrod Aloni, the Israeli Army’s regional commander of the northern West Bank who led the investigation on behalf of the military, said in a conference call with reporters that the killings did not seem planned and that the suspects were not connected to any organization. He said that he believed they had wanted to enter a settlement as a test of courage and to steal weapons.

What actually happened that night in Itamar is not in dispute. Officials said that the two suspects walked the mile or so from Awarta to the perimeter fence that surrounds Itamar armed with knives, a wire cutter and some kind of hoods or ski masks.

After crossing the fence, they entered the house next door to the Fogels. It belonged to the Hai family and was empty. There they stole an M-16 assault rifle, clips and a protective vest, officials said.

They proceeded to the Fogel house, where they immediately killed the two young boys, according to the Shin Bet, before entering the parents' bedroom. The parents struggled with the intruders and were killed, shot with the weapon stolen from their neighbors' house and stabbed with knives.

The killers left the house but returned again for another gun, which they stole. At that point, according to both the Shin Bet and the military, the baby girl woke up and cried, so they stabbed her to death as well.

The extended Awad clan makes up about half of Awarta, which has a population of around 7,000.

The mayor of Awarta, Qais Awad, a distant relative of the suspects, said on Sunday that he had "many doubts about this Israeli story" and demanded an independent international investigation. "From the first moment," he said, "we condemned the killing of children."

About 35 residents of Awarta remain in Israeli detention, and six relatives of the main suspects are under arrest, suspected of aiding the killers after the fact, according to the Shin Bet.

One of the six is Hassan Awad, the deputy mayor of Awarta and an uncle of Hakim, the younger suspect.

In late March, before his arrest, the deputy mayor [met with reporters in Awarta](#) and denounced the Itamar killings, saying that the murder of children went against Arab and Muslim tradition.

Nouf Salim Awad, 37, the mother of Hakim, said that her son was in his bedroom on the Friday night of the killings. The next morning, she said, Hakim, one of seven children, got dressed and went out to school but returned home, saying that the village was under an army curfew.

"If I knew that my son was behind this, I would have taken him myself and handed him over to the Palestinian Authority," she said, adding that she did not believe he could have been involved.

"There are only two possibilities," she said. "Either he became crazy, or he was forced to confess."

In Itamar, the arrests brought little comfort. Haya Hai, 30, the neighbor whose house the suspects entered first, said, "We hope they will receive the same justice as the Fogel family. They should be given the death penalty."

That is unlikely, since the death penalty has never been used in Israel against those carrying out terrorist attacks.

Ms. Hai, a mother of four, said that Sunday's news only added to her "bad feeling," noting, "I heard that the killers used our weapon to kill them."

Also Sunday, an Israeli 16-year-old, Daniel Viflic, who was critically wounded April 7 when an antitank missile [fired by Hamas militants out of Gaza hit a school bus](#) in Israel, died of his wounds in an Israeli hospital.

The attack on the bus set off days of cross-border fighting between Israel and Gaza during which 19 Palestinians were killed, several of them civilians.



Itamar massacre: Fogel family butchered while sleeping

Names of Itamar attack victims cleared for publication Saturday evening: Udi Fogel, 36, Ruth Fogel, 35, and their children Yoav, 11, Elad, 4, and three-month-old Hadas were stabbed to death. Surviving kids staying with grandparents

The names of the five family members murdered in the Itamar terror attack were cleared for publication Saturday evening: Udi Fogel, 36, Ruth Fogel, 35, and their children Yoav, 11, Elad, 4, and three-month-old Hadas.

The three siblings who survived the attack are Tamar, 12, Roi, 8, and two-year-old Yishai. They are staying with their grandparents at this time.

The funeral for the victims will be held Sunday in Jerusalem at 1:30 pm.

The children's grandfather, Haim Fogel, recounted the difficult moments his family has faced in the past 24 hours.

"We received the grim news about the attack at 3 am...we were driven to Udi's home in Itamar and saw the scene of the despicable murder. We returned home with the three kids who remained alive," he said.

The grandfather also spoke of his last phone conversation with his son.

"Udi spoke to me and to Tzila, my wife. He also spoke to his siblings Matan and Michal. "We visited them in Itamar only last Saturday," he said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with Haim Fogel on the phone Saturday evening to offer condolences and support.

"It's a cold-blooded massacre of innocent children and parents," the prime minister said. "I, and the entire nation of Israel, embrace you and the three grandchildren who survived the horror. I promise to do everything we can in order to assist you at these terrible times."

The Fogel family lived in Gush Katif in the past, and following Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip moved to Ariel. Recently, the family moved to Itamar, where it built a house.

'Boy crying near parents' body'

Rabbi Yaakov Cohen, a neighbor who discovered the bodies, said that the Fogel's 12-year-old daughter knocked on his door around 12:45 am Saturday. She said that no one opened the door at her home, and that there are muddy footprints at the entrance.

"I took my weapon and we went up to the back window of the house, where we saw one of the surviving children," Cohen said. "He was sitting in the center of the living room, where there was no sign of blood, only mud."

They then asked the boy to open the front door.

"The daughter went into one of the rooms, and saw the horror before I did," Cohen said. "I entered and saw that another boy survived, a two-year-old. He was lying next to his bleeding parents, shaking them with his hands and

trying to get them to wake them up, while crying."



Fogel victims, family home after attack

Cohen, who was close to the family and worked with Udi Fogel, said that he took the boy in his arms and hugged him.

"The girl screamed and cried, and my daughter who arrived at the house tried to calm her down and hug her," he said. "We saw the bodies in the rooms. I scanned the house in order to see that there was no terrorist there, and waited for the security forces to arrive on the scene. The sight in the house was shocking."

Social workers called in

The children who survived the attack are being assisted by social workers. A welfare official said Saturday evening that "the kids are in trauma."

"The daughter saw what happened, while the two young boys were in the other room and did not see the incident," the official said.



Ambulance in Itamar on night of attack (Photo: Ido Erez)

Although Israel's social workers are currently on strike, a special committee immediately approved an exemption to handle the case. Throughout the day, social workers along with psychologists and educators spoke with children in Itamar.

House calls were also made for the purpose of conversations with adults, in an effort to identify residents who are having trouble coping with the tragedy.