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Palestinian Stabs Up to a Dozen Israelis in Rush-Hour Attack in Tel Aviv

A Palestinian man stabbed and wounded up to a dozen Israelis as he rampaged through a bus in central Tel Aviv during the Wednesday morning rush hour and then fled through nearby streets, the police said. He was shot and wounded by security forces as he tried to escape. It was unclear whether all the stabbings took place on the bus. At least 15 Israelis were hospitalized, including several who were reported to be in serious condition. The assailant, a Palestinian man in his early 20s from the West Bank city of Tulkarm, was being treated in a hospital and questioned, the police said. The assailant, identified by the police as Hamza Muhammad Hassan Matrouk, 23, boarded a bus in Tel Aviv around 7:30 a.m. and traveled several stops as more passengers boarded. He first attacked the driver, who resisted, said Yehuda Dahan, the district police chief. The man then stabbed a number of passengers before they managed to open the doors of the bus and escape. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday said that Hamas, Mr. Abbas's "partners in a unity government, hastened to commend this attack." Referring to Mr. Abbas by his popular name, Mr. Netanyahu added, "Abu Mazen is responsible for both the incitement and the dangerous move at the I.C.C. in The Hague."