

Israeli Tanks Strike in Jenin, An Alleged 'Terrorist Nest'

Reuters

JENIN, West Bank — Israeli tanks moved into Palestinian-ruled Jenin early Wednesday and razed a Palestinian security headquarters in the heart of the West Bank city, which Israelis call a "terrorist nest."

The tanks withdrew after the two-hour operation.

The raid came two days after a suicide bombing and amid a frustrating delay in convening high-level truce talks.

Gun battles erupted during the two-hour raid that followed a troop buildup on the fringes of the city.

Israel says a wave of suicide bombings has been carried out from Jenin.

Residents said darkened tanks entered the city from several points after moving into areas around the city early Tuesday.

After destroying a security building,

the tanks and troops withdrew from the area.

Three Palestinians were killed and at least 17 wounded in fighting that raged after the Israeli buildup started, Palestinian hospital officials said.

"Under the cover of what is happening in New York, Israel is attacking Jenin and conducting its brutal crimes against the Palestinians," said a Palestinian lawmaker, Jamal Shati.

"The city of Jenin is a center for terror activity," the Israeli Army said. "Many attacks have been launched from within its walls."

Three people and a suicide bomber were killed Sunday in an attack on an Israeli rail station.

Israel said it had intelligence information the railroad station bomber was hiding in Jenin and said the Palestinian Authority refused to arrest him.



Saeed Khan/Agence France-Presse

Abdul Salam Zaeef, Afghan ambassador to Pakistan, on Wednesday.

About 20 people, mostly Pakistanis, were killed in the U.S. attack. An Italian employee of the United Nations was killed by angry demonstrators in Kabul immediately following that attack. Two other expatriate aid workers were injured.

(AP, Reuters)