

Israeli troops disguised as Palestinians enter hospital and shoot patient dead

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Hebron, November 13 (RHC)-- At least 20 undercover Israeli troops dressed in Palestinian scarves raided a Hebron hospital and shot dead a patient who was being treated for gunshot wounds.

Jihad Shawar, the director of al-Ahli hospital in the West Bank city of Hebron, said more than 20 undercover Israeli forces posing as Palestinians, including one pretending to be a woman in labor, entered the hospital overnight. They went to the surgical unit, where they pulled out their guns and stormed a room where Azzam Shalaldeh was being treated for gunshot wounds, he said.

The forces handcuffed Shalaldeh and a brother who was in the room, then shot and killed another brother, 27-year-old Abdallah, as he emerged from a bathroom, Shawar said.

Video footage from a security camera at the hospital and posted to Israeli news sites showed at least a dozen men, some wearing traditional Palestinian scarves called keffiyeh, pushing a man in a wheelchair down a hall as perplexed nurses look on.

"This is an outright crime. This is against international law. No one should violate hospitals, but Israel did," Shawar said.

The Israeli military said forces entered the hospital to arrest Azzam Shalaldeh, who they say stabbed an Israeli last month. During the arrest, a man at the hospital attacked the troops, who responded by shooting him, the military said.

The Israeli military did not provide additional details of the operation, or say whether the troops were undercover. It also did not give the identity or condition of the man who was shot.

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