**Security forces thwart attempted stabbing attack at Damascus Gate**

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By Daniel Eisenbud

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Police thwarted an attempted stabbing attack carried out by a female teenage Arab assailant near Jerusalem’s Damascus Gate Monday afternoon, marking the second time in less than 24 hours that Arab terrorists have attempted to carry out deadly violence in the flashpoint area.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., police patrolling the east Jerusalem entrance to the Old City spotted the unidentified suspect behaving suspiciously, said police Spokesman Micky Rosenfeld.

“An officer stationed by Damascus Gate approached the female Arab teenager and asked her for identification, at which time she pulled out a knife and attempted to stab the officer,” Rosenfeld said shortly after the attack.

“Police were able to push her back and disarm her without anyone being injured. After searching her bag, a second knife was found.”

Rosenfeld said the teenager was arrested and is presently being questioned by police to determine if she acted alone or is part of an organized terror cell.

“Security assessments are being made, and heightened security will remain in effect in and around the Old City to prevent more terrorist attacks,” he said.

Shortly after 11 p.m. on Sunday night, two Palestinian terrorists from the West Bank armed with improvised automatic weapons were shot dead in the same area after one of them fired on police personnel.

“After the terrorists arrived near Damascus Gate, a police officer made eye contact with one of the suspects who was carrying a large white bag and proceeded to pull him over to ask him for his identification and search the bag for weapons,” said Rosenfeld.

“The terrorist opened the bag and pulled out an improvised automatic weapon and at that point the officer opened fire and killed him. The second terrorist then opened fire on police from 100 meters away, and units in the area responded by opening fire and killing him.”

None of the officers were wounded during the brief exchange, he said, adding that one of the assailants also possessed a knife.

“We know that they coordinated on their own, but they are not part of a terrorist organization,” Rosenfeld said.

Noting the spike in attacks in the area, he added that extra police units have been dispatched to patrol in and around the Old City, with an emphasis on Damascus Gate.