At least 7 dead, several wounded in Shabbat shooting attack on Jerusalem synagogue

(JTA) — A shooting attack on a synagogue in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Neve Yaakov killed at least seven people on Friday, a day after an Israeli raid on a West Bank city ignited vows of retaliation by Palestinian militant groups.

The attack took place Friday evening as worshipers left Shabbat services. A gunman was killed in a shootout with police, Israeli officials said, identifying him as a resident of eastern Jerusalem who was not Israeli.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but Hamas and Islamic Jihad praised it as retaliation for the raid in Jenin, in which at least nine Palestinians were killed. Israel said the raid was meant to prevent a planned major attack.

Neve Yaakov is one of the neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem Israel built after it captured the area in the 1967 Six-Day War. It was constructed to expand the Jewish presence in the city's eastern portions, although in recent years Palestinian Jerusalemites have rented apartments there. It is near the separation barrier between Jerusalem's boundaries and the West Bank and near areas under Palestinian Authority control.

Several other people were wounded in the attack, according to the first-responder service Magen David Adom. Among those initially reported as hospitalized were a 70-year-old woman, a 20-year-old man and a 14-year-old boy.

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