

Hamas Rockets Hit Israeli School Bus

A projectile fired from Hamas-controlled Gaza hit a bus carrying Israeli civilians on Thursday, injuring three people, including a young boy.

The driver is reported to be in critical condition. The 13-year-old has serious head wounds and medics are fighting to save his life.

As many as 50 children were on the bus as it made its way from a regional middle school to take them home.

Alon Schuster, head of the Shaar haNegev regional authority, says the bus was completely destroyed and confirmed that a teenage boy was seriously wounded. The driver was also injured.

"The bus was heading from Nahal Oz to the school, and only one child and the driver were left on the bus, and they were hurt," says Yenina Banea, a local resident. "The other kids had just gotten off.

"We are all in shelters and hear bombing around us. Until two minutes ago (4:28 pm Israel time) we kept hearing bombs, but I didn't know if it's in Israel or in Gaza. All the kids are in shelters.

Minutes later there were reports of a direct hit on a home in the Israeli community of Ein Hashlosa. No further details were immediately available.

The first mortar or anti-tank missile was launched at Kibbutz Saad close to the Gaza-Israel border, as children were returning from school.

178 mortars and rockets were launched from Gaza at Israel so

far this year.

Residents in the area have been ordered into their bomb shelters.

" Hamas is responsible for any strikes that originate in Gaza," says Israel's Defense Minister Ehud Barak.