

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)
— The Syrian government
hanged three pro-
Palestinian guerrillas at
dawn today in swift
retribution for a bloody
raid on a Damascus hotel
just 24 hours earlier.

A fourth guerrilla and
four hostages were killed

and 34 hostages were
wounded in a seven-hour
battle for the Semiramis
Hotel in the most daring
Palestinian attack yet in
Syria.

The three surviving
terrorists were hanged in a
public square facing the
luxury hotel. Their bodies,

clad only in white tunics,
were left dangling in
nooses for six hours as
thousands of Syrians
pressed around the gallows
and climbed to balconies
and rooftops to see the
victims

The guerrillas called
themselves the 'Black
June'' group and
apparently were
protesting Syria's military
intervention that began
last June in the Lebanese
civil war

Before they were
executed, the three went
on Syrian state television
and said they belonged to
Al Fatah, the biggest
Palestinian guerrilla
group. They also said they
had been trained in Iraq,
which has supported

radical Arab organizations and has denounced the Syrian role in Lebanon.

But in. Beirut, a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the Palestinian umbrella group headed by Yasir Arafat, denied that any PLO members' were responsible. Arafat also heads Al Fatah, which is considered to be less radical than some Palestinian guerrilla units.

A Syrian government statement said the four hostages who died Sunday were killed by the terrorists. Three of the slain hostages were women, and witnesses said all were Arabs. Three Americans were reported in the hotel at the time and one, National Broadcasting Corp. assistant producer Robert Castenbach, was taken hostage but was unharmed, the US. Embassy said.

According to an account pieced together from witnesses and security officers, the four-member team pulled up to the hotel at about 5 a.m. Sunday in a dark blue car with Lebanese license plates. They asked for a room, were told none was available, left and returned with submachine guns and grenades.

Security officers said the commandos moved from floor to floor of the five-

story hotel rousing guests
from their sleep and taking
them captive. Someone
called police and the hotel
was immediately
surrounded, witnesses
said.

Security forces cut off
communications to the

hotel and the guerrillas,
holding the to op oor,
opened fire a

grenades down on eas
Syrians.