



Increased Israeli Violence is Forcing Palestinians to Adapt a More Militarized Resistance in the West Bank

Abuses and killings by Israeli forces have been pushing Palestinians into a corner. The latest of these was a raid carried out by the Israeli Defense force in the West Bank near Jericho resulted in the deaths of five Palestinians. All those slain were members of Hamas according to the organization. It is the most recent of the Israeli military's practically nightly operations against the inhabitants of the West Bank. This year has been especially brutal so far, with Israeli operations already killing 49 Palestinians, of which 17 were children. The new government has been making it easier to kill Palestinians, passing laws allowing easier access to weapons for settlers in the West Bank.

The overwhelming majority of parties making up Israel's current government have held positions of power for many years. These parties are perceived as covert revolutionaries who do not view the Palestinians as a people. They are mostly nationalists and religious conservatives that promote and enforce policies to attract and excite followers, maintain their power, and carry on with their violent and unjust actions. The Israeli government is embracing radicalism and dividing the Palestinian community. The extremist right wing is eager to destabilize the current far-right Israeli administration (which it helped create in the past). They have been working to dismantle the separation of powers and liberal components, knowing that demographics favor them. With this action, the right would be able to transform Israeli society and culture but at the consequence of Palestinian lives.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is being accused of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust, has a personal stake in subverting the judicial system, though his trial serves just as a spark for more powerful political forces that want to fundamentally alter the nation. They argue that "the people" demanded a regime change based on a slim victory in the election, even though, based on the number of votes cast, the government is supported by less than half of the population. The new administration has attracted many with pledges to make people's lives better by, among other things, bringing down living expenses, finding young people housing options, and expanding access to free education. The goals of the new administration also include promoting Jewish religious nationalism in the classroom and strengthening neoliberalism's hold on the Israeli economy.

Israel's administration has also been extending and annexing illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. The United States, a close ally of Israel, has asked that they pause settlement operations to help calm growing tensions. The Israeli government refused. They continue to align and reinforce the perception that Palestinians are a danger to them. These coordinated activities in Israel are abuses of an entire community's human rights. Outcasting and ignoring an entire people cannot be part of the government's philosophy.

The nature of Israel's government has allowed those in power to manipulate it to push their agenda. The legislative body is relatively small and its judicial power lacks safeguards against the abuse and consolidation of power. Israel has implemented gun regulations that make obtaining weapons easier, and

many who shoot Palestinians face little to no consequences. The new Supreme Court blueprint for how justices are selected to influence governmental policies and judgments was filed by Justice Minister Levin. Levin wants to discontinue the “reasonableness test”, a standard that is universally acknowledged in the democratic world and utilized to evaluate, in particular, executive branch actions. The political system is lulling into passivity and even inciting further violence against Palestinians. They are being forced to put up a more resolute fight against the Israeli occupiers.

As tensions between Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank rise, some Palestinians' resistance has taken on a more militaristic tone as a result of the ongoing assault on Palestinian residents of that region. As a result, armed resistance organizations have attacked Israeli military and civilian targets, staged large-scale demonstrations, and engaged in combat with Israeli security forces. The growth of settlements and restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement, among other acts by the Israeli government and military, have exacerbated Palestinian resentment and fury and increased violent resistance. The Israeli government's measures, according to its supporters, are required for the security of the nation and are in response to violent acts committed by Palestinian militant organizations. Regardless of its reasons, the increase in militarized tactics on both sides has contributed to a vicious cycle of violence and further escalated the conflict in the region. Inciting violence against another group of people is unacceptable. This is simply not sustainable. Israel needs to immediately cease violent atrocities against the Palestinian people if there is any hope for tensions to cool.