



[Israeli Settlers Responsible for Attacks Need to be Held Accountable](#)

The Israeli government's support of settler violence against Palestinians has once again come to light in the wake of a horrific attack on Sunday night in the occupied West Bank. Israeli authorities have released all but two suspects detained following a Jewish settler rampage that resulted in the death of one Palestinian and hundreds of injuries, as well as the destruction of Palestinian homes and property. The attack, in which 400 settlers participated, took place in numerous communities close to Nablus. According to Palestinian media, settlers attacked Arabs with metal rods and rocks, and perpetrated gunshots, arson assaults, and shootings. At least 390 Palestinians were hurt, and over 30 Palestinian homes and 100 cars were set on fire, according to the Palestinian Authority. This latest attack is part of a larger trend of Israeli settlers committing hundreds of attacks each year on Palestinians and their property in the occupied West Bank, with little to no consequences. Just 3% of investigations into violence against Palestinians result in convictions, while 93% of investigations end without an indictment, according to the Israeli rights organization Yesh Din.

The release of the imprisoned settlers falls into this larger trend. Israelis who reside in illegal settlements often carry out these attacks with the backing of the Israeli army, leading to a lack of justice for Palestinian victims. This is unacceptable, and the international community must take a stand against these acts of violence. Moreover, the Israeli government's response to the attack on Sunday night has been deeply concerning. Rather than focusing on apprehending the settlers responsible for the attack, the Israeli authorities have disproportionately concentrated on apprehending Palestinians who have committed shooting attacks. This is not only unjust, but it also exacerbates tensions between Israelis and Palestinians. Only one of many examples of Palestinian people facing unjust actions demonstrated by the Israeli government, military, and people.

Since the new far-right Israeli administration led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office late last year, tensions between Israelis and Palestinians have reached new heights. Israeli soldiers have conducted three significant raids, along with multiple other smaller raids, in Palestinian cities, killing many Palestinians. The number of Palestinian fatalities in a single Israeli military action since 2005 reached a record high during a raid on Nablus on February 22, in which 11 Palestinians were killed and over 100 others injured. These actions have legal and political cover from the Israeli government, as evidenced by the comments made by prominent figures in the settlement movement and members of Netanyahu's administration. For example, Davidi Ben Zion, the deputy chairman of the Samaria Regional Council, which oversees illegal settlements in the northern occupied West Bank, stated in a since-deleted tweet that the "village of Huwara should be obliterated." And Bezalel Smotrich, the nation's finance minister and a significant member of Benjamin Netanyahu's administration, liked the tweet. When we see examples like this, we uncover the blatant efforts to eradicate Palestinian people. This kind of rhetoric only serves to escalate the situation and make it more dangerous for Palestinians at large, especially those living in the occupied West Bank. It is time for the Israeli government to take

responsibility for the violence that its policies and actions have fueled, and for the international community to hold them accountable.

The far-right movement in Israel has been gaining momentum in recent years, with politicians and settlers pushing for the expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and the removal of Palestinian communities. This movement is fueled by a dangerous ideology that sees Palestinians as inferior and seeks to erase their presence from the land.

While not all Israelis share these extreme views, there is certainly a segment of the population that is sympathetic to the far-right agenda. This is particularly true in the wake of recent violence, with many Israelis feeling a sense of fear and vulnerability in the face of attacks by Palestinians. However, it is important to note that not all Israelis support the expulsion or mistreatment of Palestinians. There are some Israelis who recognize the need for a just and peaceful solution to the conflict, and who reject the racist rhetoric and violent actions of the far-right. Unfortunately, the far-right movement has significant political power in Israel, with key figures like Benjamin Netanyahu and Itamar Ben-Gvir promoting their extremist views from positions of authority. This has led to a situation where the government is actively supporting and encouraging the settlement enterprise, even as it carries out brutal military operations against Palestinian communities. This has created a severe humanitarian crisis, with Palestinians living under constant threat of violence and displacement. The settlements are illegal under international law, and their expansion has led to the destruction of Palestinian homes and livelihoods, as well as the theft of their land and resources. The Israeli military has also carried out countless human rights violations against Palestinians, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary detention. Palestinians face daily harassment and discrimination, with checkpoints, restrictions on movement, and a lack of access to basic services like healthcare and education.

In conclusion, the international community must condemn the growing prominence of settler "revenge attacks" and collective punishment against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. The lack of justice for Palestinian victims, along with the Israeli government's support of settler violence, is unacceptable and must not be allowed to continue. The international community must take action to hold the Israeli government accountable for its actions and ensure that justice is served for all victims of violence in the region.