



[Israel's Murder of a Palestinian-American Teenager in the Occupied West Bank Sparks Outrage](#)

Earlier this week, Israeli forces shot and killed Palestinian-American teenager Amer Rabee in the occupied West Bank village of Turmus Ayya. The 14-year-old, who was born and raised in New Jersey, was murdered while two of his friends were also severely wounded and hospitalized. The deplorable killing of yet another civilian at the hands of Israeli forces has sparked outrage and elicited concern that it will again go unpunished. As alluded to in the [statement](#) from the Palestinian American Community Center (PACC) of New Jersey regarding the incident, the killing of Rabee was “entirely preventable and horrifically unjust,” and warrants an investigation. It also comes at a time when the United Nations has documented that at least 100 children have been killed on a daily basis since Israel’s onslaught on Gaza has resumed. The alarming murder of Rabee has also prompted troubled reactions from elected officials in his home state, with U.S. Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) calling it an atrocity and Governor Phil Murphy (D-NJ) demanding answers from the Israeli government. For rights advocates and those who have closely monitored the behavior of Israeli forces in occurrences like this in the past, the latest killing regrettably comes as no surprise given Israel’s track record of committing these types of heinous crimes with impunity.

Details of the incident have shed light on the fact that Rabee was shot and killed an appalling 11 times while out picking almonds with his friends. Since there is nothing that can possibly justify Israeli forces’ use of such excessive and lethal violence, predictably, Israel has gone to its commonly-used playbook of claiming that the teenagers “posed a danger” because they were supposedly throwing stones towards a highway – something that has been disputed. What is additionally shocking is that documented accounts of the incident have uncovered how Israeli soldiers denied the victims access to urgently needed medical care by blocking an ambulance from reaching the victims for over 30 minutes. All of this has led observers to label the murder a grave injustice. Some have also pointed to the United States’ culpability in enabling Israel to engage in behavior like this, as the former has failed to give proper attention to increasing Israeli violence in the West Bank which has clearly been on the rise since the onset of the Gaza War.

Many have gathered with the family of Amer Rabee to demand justice for his killing, and have implored the United States to conduct an investigation into it. One human rights activist, Ihab Hassan, remarked on social media that calling a 14-year-old child a “terrorist” for allegedly throwing stones, then executing him and gravely injuring two others without the culprit being held accountable lays bare a brutal level of hypocrisy and cruelty. Others have also referenced the United States government’s lack of consistency in its responses to incidents of senseless murders involving Palestinian-Americans as opposed to Israeli-Americans. When it comes to highly questionable killings of Palestinian-Americans, U.S. government entities often express that they need to learn more about the nature of what took place and by doing so later blindly accept Israel’s biased account of this instead of demanding that an independent investigation be conducted in order to verify the actual facts.

The tragic and unsettling murder of Rabee is sadly one of many unjust killings like this that have been carried out by Israeli forces against teenage civilians, journalists, and activists. Just last year in February, 17-year-old Mohammad Khmour was shot and killed in his car while driving his cousin, and only three weeks earlier, another teenager – Tawfic Abdel Jabbar – was also killed under similar disturbing circumstances. A number of these have

seen Palestinian-Americans specifically as the victims, leading to understandable criticism being levied at the U.S. government for failing to properly examine cases involving its citizens. Other egregious killings of activists and journalists alike have occurred recently as well, such as that of Turkish-American activist Aysenur Eygi and renowned Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. Despite incidents such as these repeatedly occurring and eliciting outrage, there has been a glaring absence of accountability and justice, which is needed to both punish those responsible and prevent behavior like this from continuing to take place.