



# Facts Dispel the Media Myth of Israeli “Settler Violence”

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

On Saturday, July 12th, multiple mainstream media outlets reported that a Palestinian with American citizenship named Sayfollah Musallet was murdered—beaten to death—by Jewish “settlers” in Judea and Samaria (aka, the West Bank). Yet, no hard proof of this alleged crime has been produced. In fact, according to Israeli police, there is “no complaint, no autopsy, no evidence.” Nevertheless, U.S. ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee has asked Israeli authorities to “aggressively investigate” the incident.

Legacy media, left-wing politicians, and certain NGOs consistently use the myth of “settler violence” in Judea and Samaria (aka, the West Bank) in an effort to mischaracterize Jewish residents who live there as violent extremists who have no right to live in their ancestral homeland.

In fact, violence by Israeli Jewish residents in Judea and Samaria is grossly exaggerated and pales in comparison to the number of Palestinian terrorist attacks against Jews. Furthermore, claims of settler violence are based on false statistics and bogus accounts by the UN and left-wing NGOs, which are then parroted by mainstream media.

A closer look at the facts tells a much different story. Many incidents of settler violence recorded by the UN don’t involve violence. Some incidents recorded don’t involve settlers. The UN even considers car accidents as acts of settler violence.

When settlers are involved in violent incidents, it is often they who are the victims. Indeed, many of the same media that published stories about Musallet’s murder didn’t bother to get the Jewish residents’ account of how the events leading up to his death

FLAME'S  
WEEKLY  
HOTLINE E-  
NEWSLETTER



FLAME's Hotline e-newsletter keeps you up to date on the most important pro-Israel advocacy issues and features our choice of the week's most informative and thought-provoking article on Israel and the Middle East. If you only subscribe to one pro-Israel news service, make it the FLAME Hotline.

Get Notifications

SUBSCRIBE  
NOW >>



DONATE

NOW

IF YOU  
SUPPORT  
PUBLISHING  
FLAME'S  
BOLD PR  
MESSAGES,  
PLEASE HELP  
US!

transpired. If they did, they would know that it was Palestinians who attacked first.

Tragically, the overwhelmingly law-abiding Jewish community in Judea and Samaria is unjustly vilified by those who promote a false narrative in which Jews are intruders and aggressors on “Palestinian” land. But in fact, Jews have every right to live in Judea and Samaria, and it is Palestinians who are the main perpetrators of violence in the disputed territory.

**The numbers do not back up the narrative of out-of-control settler violence.** The UN claims that between January 2016 and April 2023, there were 8,332 cases of settler violence. But an analysis of these statistics in a report by Israeli NGO Regavim proves that just a tiny fraction of reported cases could actually be classified as settler violence.

Many of the cases include those in which Jews were the victims. Moreover, 20% of the incidents

recorded didn’t even take place in Judea and Samaria. But perhaps most damning is the fact that many of the incidents recorded by the UN didn’t involve violence at all. In fact, the UN included such dubious acts of “settler violence” as traffic accidents, Israeli school trips to archeological sites, hikers trespassing accidentally, state infrastructure work by Israeli authorities, and visits by Jews to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem—not remotely violent acts. In fact, Regavim reported that upon filtering out these irrelevant cases, just 10%—833 of the 8,332 cases cited by the UN—remain.

**Palestinian terrorism against Jews dwarfs settler violence.** Assuming that there were just 833 cases of genuine settler violence between January 2016 and April 2023, the yearly average for cases of settler violence in that period was just 110—fewer than 10 incidents a month. By contrast, in one year alone—2024—the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) recorded 6,828 Palestinian terrorist attacks. In other words, attacks by Palestinian terrorists are more than sixty times more frequent than incidents of settler violence.

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial *hasbarah* messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

DONATE  
NOW >>

Get Notifications

**Media, NGOs and certain politicians overexaggerate settler violence.** If you read the headlines, you would think that violence by Israeli Jewish residents, or “settlers,” is out of control. Last week, for example, *Time* Magazine published the headline, “Israeli settler violence escalates in the West Bank after death of Palestinian-American.” Also last week, Yahoo News published a headline saying, “UN Reports surge in settler violence against West Bank Palestinians.”

Certain NGOs also overexaggerate settler violence. The website of Israeli leftist human rights organization Yesh Din, for instance, asserts that “incidents of violence by Israeli civilians against Palestinians and their property are a daily occurrence throughout the West Bank.” This claim is repeated on the website of B’Tselem, another left-wing Israeli NGO, which has labelled Israel an apartheid state.

Some world leaders have also taken aim at Israel for settler violence. Last year, for instance, the Biden Administration imposed sanctions on several Jewish and Israeli groups and individuals, blaming them for stoking violence. Similar sanctions have been imposed by the UK, Australia, France, Japan and Canada.

**Accounts of settler violence leave out crucial information.** For example, media outlets like CNN, NBC and CBS failed to mention that when Musallet was killed, it was Palestinians who began hostilities.

Indeed, the Binyamin Regional Council, responsible for municipal governance in the part of Judea and Samaria in which the murder took place, called the incident a premeditated terror attack. Dozens of “terrorists and Arab rioters,” accompanied by anarchist activists, attacked Jewish shepherds with stones and slingshots, burned equipment, and injured two people. Furthermore, the IDF reportedly uncovered several explosive devices concealed in stone barriers, allegedly meant to target Israeli soldiers.

**Jews are not intruders or aggressors in Judea and Samaria.** In fact, legacy media fail to mention that all

Jews living in Judea and Samaria reside in Area C, the territory delineated by the Oslo Accords—agreed upon by the Palestinians—as under Israeli control. Jews are permitted to live in this territory and constitute the majority of the population in this area—their residence in Judea and Samaria is completely legal under international law. Claims of Jewish “occupation” of the territory are equally false: Judea and Samaria were never legally part of any other country, nor have Palestinians ever had sovereignty over it. Yet today the Palestinians permit no Jews to inhabit Areas A and B, which they control—a clear form of apartheid.

Remember, too, that Judea and Samaria encompass the core of the ancient Jewish homeland. You cannot be an intruder in your own native land. Finally, note that the overwhelming majority of Jewish residents in Area C of Judea and Samaria—now numbering more than 500,000 in cities as large as 85,000—are *not* extremists, but are families who choose to live there because of cheaper housing and a high quality of life.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that numerically it is overwhelmingly Palestinians who attack Jews, not the other way around. The myth of “settler violence” is simply a way for enemies of the Jewish state to discredit Israel and Israelis who don’t accept Palestinian apartheid.

If you agree we need to spread this truth, please use your email browser to forward this Hotline issue to fellow lovers of Israel—and encourage them to join us by subscribing to the Hotline at no charge.

Best regards,  
James Sinkinson, President  
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. I’m sure you’d agree: If your enemy says they want to kill you and take your land, you’d be smart to believe them. If you try to make peace, but they refuse all your offers and continue to make murderous threats, it’s time to eliminate this enemy. Israel has faced

exactly this danger with the Palestinians—yet continued to hope for peace . . . until Hamas’s October 7 massacre and kidnappings. Finally, Israel and many lovers of Israel are facing reality. They’ve concluded their futile dreams of peace must end. They must finally defeat their Palestinian enemies—starting with Hamas and other jihadi terrorists. I hope you’ll agree that we supporters of the Israel-U.S. relationship need to speak out. FLAME’s new *hasbarah*—explanatory message—“[End of the Palestinian Lie](#)”—describes how Israel and the West have for 77 years bought the myth that the Palestinians want peace. It details the many offers of land for peace Israel, the U.N. and the U.S. have made to give Palestinians their own state—all refused. Finally, it explains why Israel must adopt a bold new strategy—disarming, disabling and defeating Hamas and all other terror groups that attack Israeli civilians. Please review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME intends to publish to millions—in leading social media, as well as in the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Tampa Bay Times*, *Denver Post* and *Los Angeles Times*. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, the President and Vice President. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel’s behalf is critical, I urge you to [support us](#) with a donation.

As of today, more than 28,000 Israel supporters receive the FLAME Hotline at no charge every week. If you’re not yet a subscriber, won’t you join us in receiving these timely

Get Notifications



Facts and Logic  
About the

ABOUT FLAME

> FLAME’s Purpose

> FLAME’s

FLAME’S PUBLICATIONS

> PR for Israel

> Chairman’s

GET INVOLVED

> Subscribe to FLAME Hotline

> Make a

SHARE, EMAIL OR PRINT

Middle East  
PO Box 3460  
Berkeley, CA  
94703

Leadership

Letter

Donation to  
FLAME

> FLAME—User  
Agreement  
Privacy Policy

> Hotline Archive



> FLAME 2023  
Financial  
Statement

> FLAME 2022  
Form 990

> Flame  
Whistleblower  
Policy

> Records  
Retention and  
Destruction  
policy

Get Notifications

Copyright 2020 FLAME. All rights reserved.

