Difficult life for Christians in Palestine due to attacks by Israeli terrorists

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> Residents of Taybeh, the only remaining entirely Christian Palestinian town in the occupied West Bank, describe intensifying attacks by illegal Israeli settlers that have devastated the community, damaged its historic Catholic Church, and left children traumatized despite decades of international diplomatic visits.

SAŽETAK

This account from Taybeh, located east of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, documents the escalating impact of illegal Israeli settler violence on one of Palestine's last entirely Christian communities. A Catholic priest recalls that the church once welcomed over 13,000 visitors annually; today, the town is largely isolated and under siege. Over two years of repeated attacks have included arson at the historic church, seizure of more than 16 square kilometers of Palestinian land, and establishment of seven illegal settlement outposts overlooking the area. Residents recount specific incidents of settlers invading farmhouses, destroying agricultural equipment, and livestock grazing on Palestinian property. Local leaders, including a scout leader working with youth, describe the psychological toll on children growing up amid constant threats, checkpoints, and violence. Despite hosting dozens of foreign ambassadors and international ministers over three years, residents report no material change in their security situation or legal protection. They characterize the attacks as part of a systematic displacement policy and cite their religious and ancestral connection to the land as motivation to remain.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

> Taybeh's historic Catholic Church, which once attracted over 13,000 annual visitors, was set on fire; restoration efforts are ongoing but residents fear further attacks.

> Illegal Israeli settlers have seized more than 16 square kilometers of Taybeh's land and established seven settlement outposts that overlook the town, with the mayor unable to access some areas.

> Over two years, documented incidents include settlers invading farmhouses, destroying agricultural equipment and beehives, and grazing livestock on Palestinian property.

> Young people in Taybeh are experiencing severe psychological trauma, growing up amid checkpoints, gunfire, and soldiers, with scout leaders unable to safely take children to open spaces.

> International diplomatic attention—dozens of ambassadors and ministers have visited in three years—has produced no material change in security or legal protection for residents.

> Residents identify the pattern of attacks as part of illegal Israeli settlement displacement policies targeting Palestinian communities.

> Despite the dangers and lack of state protection, residents express determination to remain on their ancestral land.

ČLANAK

The Historic Church and Decline of Visitors

Father, a priest at the Catholic Church in Taybeh, east of Ramallah, recalls that the church used to welcome more than 13,000 Christian visitors each year. Today, he says that illegal Israeli settler violence has left the town isolated and largely empty of visitors. According to biblical tradition, Jesus entered Al-Taybeh seeking refuge—a place of safety. Today, this place is no longer safe. The town is facing attacks and violence from people described as having no humanity, with what residents identify as the goal of displacing its residents.

Damage and Restoration Efforts

Months after the historic church was set on fire, restoration work has begun. However, fears of another attack continue to haunt residents. More than 16 square kilometers of land has been taken by settlers, and seven illegal settlement outposts now overlook the area. The situation has become so severe that even the mayor cannot reach some places within the town's territory. He asked journalists to use their camera to document the destruction left behind after one of the latest assaults.

Pattern of Repeated Attacks

The area has been under repeated attacks for two years. Residents describe incidents in which settlers bring sheep, cows, and even camels onto Palestinian land. Two days before this account was recorded, settlers came to a farmhouse, swam in the

residents' well, stole all the agricultural equipment, and destroyed the beehives that were there. A scout leader in the town describes the impact on the younger generation: despite their determination to stay on their land, fear continues to overwhelm them. Scouting camps are supposed to take place in open spaces, but it has become dangerous to bring children to see the mountains because of the settlers. According to the scout leader, there is no safe space except the town center. Children are growing up before their time, knowing checkpoints, gunfire, and soldiers—"This is a tragedy," he says.

International Attention Without Resolution

During the last three years, dozens of foreign ambassadors and ministers have visited Taybeh, witnessing attacks affecting both Muslims and Christians in the town. Despite this international attention, residents say nothing has changed. Here, residents view the attacks as part of illegal Israeli settlement policies aimed at displacing Palestinians. Despite the lack of security and stability, they say staying on their land is a decision rooted in their deep connection to religion and the soil.

#Taybeh (Christian Palestinian town) #Settler violence (West Bank) #Displacement and land seizure #Illegal Israeli settlements #Christian Palestinians #Humanitarian impact and trauma #International diplomacy and accountability

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