Munther Isaac : Urgent message and call to prayer and awarnase

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> Munther Isaac describes the daily reality of settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank — families attacked, homes burned, villages under siege — and calls for prayer not as a substitute for justice, but as a catalyst for urgent action, accountability, and moral witness.

SAŽETAK

Munther Isaac testifies to the relentless, systematic violence faced by Palestinian communities in the West Bank, where armed settlers attack villages, burn homes and farms, and kill civilians with near-total impunity. He emphasizes that Palestinians cannot defend themselves without facing retaliation, and that checkpoints and military closures result in preventable deaths. Isaac rejects the reduction of Palestinian suffering to statistics, insisting instead on the humanity and individual stories of families whose futures are being cut short. He identifies impunity — sustained by political interests, military support, and ideological justifications — as the root cause of continued violence. Isaac calls on people of faith and the international community to move beyond statements and prayer alone, urging concrete action: speaking to elected representatives, mobilizing churches and governments, and refusing to become accustomed to injustice. His message frames prayer not as an escape from responsibility but as the spiritual foundation for sustained moral and political action.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

- Settler violence in the West Bank is a daily, systematic occurrence affecting families simply trying to live and farm on their ancestral land; this is not isolated incidents but an ongoing pattern.
- Palestinians face a defenseless position: they cannot effectively protect themselves without risking military retaliation and further violence.
- Checkpoint delays have directly resulted in Palestinian deaths, including children and pregnant women unable to reach medical care — a recurring humanitarian crisis.

> Impunity for Israeli settlers and forces is sustained by international military support, political backing, and ideological or theological justifications that frame displacement as acceptable.

> The stated goal of the violence is displacement: to uproot Palestinians from their land, villages, homes, and history, replacing them with settlers.

> Prayer is a spiritual act rooted in belief that God hears the oppressed, but it must be paired with concrete action: advocacy, political pressure, mobilization, and refusal to normalize injustice.

> People of faith have a moral obligation to speak against not only the illegality but the immorality of systematic displacement and violence.

ČLANAK

A Daily Reality of Violence and Fear

Every day we wake up wondering which Palestinian village will be attacked next. We are exhausted, afraid. We live in fear and terror. This has gone way beyond what one can endure. And we're not talking about isolated incidents. This has become a daily, relentless reality. Hardly a day passes without one or more attacks by armed settlers on Palestinian communities. We're talking about families in their villages and towns, simply trying to live, to farm, to raise their children in their land and the land of their ancestors. Settlers attack, burn homes, cars, and farms. They uproot trees. They steal sheep. They terrorize and kill. Yesterday, four more Palestinians were killed in the village of Tal in their land. And as I said, now we live in a constant state of fear and terror.

The Defenselessness of Palestinians

Here is what many people actually don't understand: Palestinians can't defend themselves. In fact, if we try, we risk being shot. We saw this again yesterday. Armed settlers arrived at the village of Tal alongside soldiers. They came with weapons, with protection, and of course, with total impunity. Palestinians are not only not protected, but when they defend themselves, the result is retaliation and revenge. Yesterday, Israeli lives were also lost in these attacks, and the aftermath was terrible. Villages across the West Bank were effectively under siege. Checkpoints were closed, roads were blocked. People could not leave or return home. And this is not, again, an exception.

Checkpoints and Medical Emergencies

In fact, just a few days ago, a Palestinian woman died after being delayed at a checkpoint while trying to reach a hospital. Prior to that, a child died as a result of being stuck at a checkpoint. This is again daily reality. And we ask: how many more Palestinians continue to be, or have to be, killed? There are statistics to share about how many Palestinians are being killed, how many children have died, how many attacks have taken place. But really, I'm tired of repeating numbers. We're not numbers. We're not headlines. In fact, we don't want to be headlines. We're talking about mothers, fathers, children, grandparents with names, with stories, with futures. We're talking about families whose lives are forever changed, futures that are cut short.

The Question of Accountability

So I ask myself: when will enough be enough? How long can an entire people be expected to live in fear and terror? For how long can communities remain defenseless while violence continues with so little accountability? Of course, except for those who dare to defend their land, their homes, their families, their trees—the Israeli army is quick to hold them accountable. Now we ask, what's the end goal of all of this? What future is being imagined? It feels as though we have exhausted all human solutions. The world issues statements, but the violence continues. Palestinians feel abandoned, with no one willing or able to protect us.

A Call to Prayer

So today I want us to pray. Pray not as a substitute for justice, but pray because we believe God hears the cries of the oppressed. Pray for protection over the communities. Pray for courage for those who live in fear and terror. Pray that hearts will change, that those with power will act, and that justice will prevail. As Palestinians, we often feel no one standing between us and the violence, but we refuse to believe that God has abandoned us. So today, in our grief, in our fear, and even in our desperation, we will pray.

Beyond Prayer: The Question of Morality

Now we need to do more than prayer. So much has been said about the illegality of all of this. International law has spoken, human rights have spoken. Even governments have spoken. But today I want to speak about something even deeper: not just the illegality of all of this, but the immorality of it. Which means we as people of faith have to speak. This is not about isolated incidents. It's part of a system, an ongoing system for many years, with the stated goal to displace Palestinians and replace us. The goal is clear. They want to uproot us from our land, from our villages, from our homes, from our history.

The Roots of Impunity

So we ask, how is this happening? How has this been allowed to happen? The answer begins with impunity. Israel has been allowed to act as though it is above the law. But I think we must go deeper. What sustains that impunity? What political interests, what military support, what financial backing? We've just seen the votes in Congress. We must ask what ideology, what theology has been used to justify and excuse what should never be justified. People of faith: we cannot remain silent. Our faith demands more of us.

Prayer as a Catalyst for Action

Yes, we need to pray. But prayer is not an escape from responsibility. In fact, prayer is what gives us the courage to act. So we pray and then we act. Let's pray—pray earnestly, pray persistently—but don't stop at prayer. We urge you to speak, to write, to mobilize. Call your elected representatives. Challenge your churches to speak louder. Urge your governments to act. Refuse. We need to refuse to become accustomed to injustice and oppression. We need to refuse to look away. And perhaps by God's grace, if enough people find the courage to raise their voices, we can help bring an end to this misery and terror. We owe it to every family living in fear today. But we also owe it to our faith, to our convictions that justice must prevail.

#Settler violence in the West Bank #Palestinian displacement and dispossession #Humanitarian crisis and checkpoint deaths #Impunity and accountability #Faith and moral witness #Calls to action and political mobilization #Systematic oppression and dehumanization

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