Palestinian-American woman:"They were trying to burn me alive"

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> A Palestinian-American woman from Deir Dibwan describes a settler arson attack on her home in the occupied West Bank, where Israeli settlers attempted to burn her house while she and her husband were inside. She documents the escalating pattern of settler violence—over 1,200 attacks in 2023 alone—and the Israeli military's role in arming and protecting the attackers rather than protecting Palestinians.

SAŽETAK

Maysoon Ali, a Palestinian-American resident of Deir Dibwan in Area C of the occupied West Bank, testifies to a direct attempt by Israeli settlers to burn her home with her and her husband inside. She describes a coordinated attack in which settlers cut through security barriers, poured flammable fluid around the house, and threatened her with a pistol after she managed to extinguish the fire. Ali documents the broader pattern of settler violence across the West Bank: more than 1,200 attacks recorded in 2023 alone, averaging six per day, with over 20 Palestinians killed. She emphasises that Area C, where her village sits, is under full Israeli military control, meaning Palestinian emergency services cannot respond and the Israeli military protects the settler attackers rather than the Palestinian victims. Since October 2023, Ali states that the Israeli military has directly armed settlers with weapons, drones, and vehicles. She notes that many of these weapons are supplied and funded by the US. Throughout her account, Ali describes escalating harassment, the settlers' explicit statements of intent to displace Palestinians, and the asymmetry of power in which she faces imprisonment if she defends herself against attackers who face no legal consequence.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

> Israeli settlers attempted to burn Maysoon Ali's house with her and her husband inside by cutting through security barriers and pouring flammable fluid around the building.

> Over 1,200 settler attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank were documented in 2023, averaging six attacks per day, with more than 20 Palestinians killed.

> Deir Dibwan sits in Area C under full Israeli military control, meaning Palestinian emergency services cannot respond and the Israeli military protects settler attackers rather than Palestinian victims.

> Since October 2023, the Israeli military has directly armed settlers with weapons, drones, and vehicles, with many of these weapons supplied and funded by the US.

> Settlers have made explicit video statements of intent to displace Palestinians, declaring 'this land will be for us.'

> After the arson attack, a settler waved a pistol at Ali and her husband, signalling further threats with the statement 'We'll be back.'

> Ali describes a legal asymmetry in which she faces imprisonment if she defends herself, while settler attackers operate without legal consequence.

ČLANAK

Settler Violence in the Occupied West Bank

They are settlers—100% Israeli settlers. I like to call them Israeli thugs. They were trying to burn me alive and burn the house while my husband and I were inside it. Across the occupied West Bank, Israeli settlers are burning Palestinians out of their homes, with more than 1,200 attacks documented just this year. That's an average of six a day. More than 20 Palestinians have been killed so far.

Security Measures and Escalating Attacks

In the village of Deir Dibwan, Palestinian-American citizen Maysoon Ali has added layer after layer of security to her home, but it hasn't stopped the attacks. They've happened multiple times. This time they came prepared—they cut through barriers and went up sneakily. I installed bulletproof shutters so they couldn't break through. If they had broken it, the house would have been gone. He was pouring fluid everywhere. You're right there, and I was here. So I shut the door, went inside and tried to put the shutter down.

Military Control and Lack of Protection

The village of Deir Dibwan sits in Area C, which means it's under full Israeli military control. It also means that no Palestinian police, fire department or authority can access it at all. And if the Israeli military does arrive, it's the settler arsonists that they protect, not the Palestinians being attacked. These Israeli thugs are illegal—they're illegal settlements by international law and by Israeli law as well. The harassment is intensively accelerating. Every time they do something worse, and nobody's stopping

them. I cannot defend them and defend myself. If anything happens to this thug, I'll be in prison while he's coming to kill me in my house.

Military Arming of Settlers and US Weapons

Since October 2023, Israel's military has been arming settlers directly, recruiting them into reserve units and issuing them weapons, drones and vehicles to patrol their own communities. Many of these weapons are supplied and funded by the US. They have it in their head that they are above the law and nobody's going to stop them. They plan things. One of them did a video on the fence behind my house, pointing to my house and saying, "Look at them. They're scared. They have fences. This is a sign that they will be gone and this land will be for us."

Threats and Intimidation

After the incident happened, somebody had a pistol in his hand and he was waving it at us because, you know, we were able to put the fire out. And he was not happy that it happened the way it did. The way he was acting and the way he was waving his pistol—it was like he was saying, "We'll be back. We'll be back." He was right there, doing this to me. Take my picture, I don't care.

#Israeli settler violence in the West Bank #Deir Dibwan and Area C #Palestinian displacement and arson attacks #Israeli military protection of settlers #US weapons and military aid to Israel #Occupation and lack of Palestinian sovereignty #Eyewitness testimony and human rights

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