The Israeli army and settlers are constantly breaking into Palestinian homes

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> American citizens in Turmasaye, near Ramallah, face daily threats from Israeli settlers despite their U.S. citizenship. Residents report being barred from accessing their own land, having their homes raided by soldiers, and living under constant fear of settler violence.

SAŽETAK

This testimony documents the situation of American citizens living in Turmasaye, a community near Ramallah in the West Bank, where 80% of residents hold U.S. passports. Despite their citizenship status, residents report systematic settler violence, military incursions into their homes, and restrictions on access to their own property. Dr. Hassan Shukri, a neurologist from Syracuse, describes Israeli soldiers taking over his home and forcing his family to leave within an hour; embassy intervention secured their departure, though previous break-ins went unaddressed. From his vantage point, Shukri documents how settlers have barred Palestinians from accessing two-thirds of their land in the community. Yassir, a former lawyer from California, corroborates these experiences, describing repeated attempts to reach his own property that have been blocked by armed settlers. Residents have taken desperate protective measures—barbed wire, welded windows, and raised American flags—hoping to deter attacks, but these measures have proven largely ineffective. The testimony reveals a gap between the theoretical protection U.S. citizenship should provide and the lived reality of daily settler aggression and military occupation.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

- Eighty percent of Turmasaye's residents are U.S. citizens, yet American citizenship has not provided protection against settler violence or military incursions.
- Israeli soldiers have repeatedly entered and occupied residents' homes; in one case, Dr. Shukri was given one hour to evacuate, though embassy intervention eventually secured his family's departure.

Settlers have barred Palestinian landowners from accessing approximately two-thirds of their property in Turmasaye, with armed settlers confronting residents who attempt to reach their land.

Residents have installed barbed wire, welded windows shut, and raised American flags in attempts to deter attacks, but these measures have not prevented settler violence or military takeovers.

A former California lawyer and current council member describes being repeatedly turned away from his own two-acre property by armed settlers, illustrating the disconnect between ownership rights and practical access.

Settler attacks occur daily in the community, and residents express fear of armed settlers entering their homes and demanding they leave at gunpoint.

Previous military break-ins at Dr. Shukri's home caused severe damage, and the U.S. embassy did not intervene in that earlier incident, suggesting inconsistent diplomatic protection.

ČLANAK

American Citizens Under Siege

Eighty percent of residents in Turmasaye, near Ramallah, are U.S. citizens. They are now taking extreme measures to protect against settler attacks, including setting up barbed wire on their fences, welding their windows shut, and in some cases raising American flags in hopes of obtaining protection. However, the presence of these flags has not prevented Israeli soldiers from entering Palestinian homes.

Dr. Hassan Shukri, a neurologist from Syracuse, New York, was visiting Turmasaye when Israeli soldiers took over his home. He was given one hour to pack his belongings and leave. "We took everything quickly, fast," he recounted. "We collected everything we have. We're under so much stress, anxiety, and wow, this is unbelievable, how this could happen to somebody." The family contacted the U.S. embassy, and four hours later the soldiers departed. However, these break-ins are not isolated incidents. Two years earlier, Israeli soldiers broke down all the doors in Dr. Shukri's home and remained for days, leaving it severely damaged. On that previous occasion, the embassy did not intervene.

Restricted Access to Land

From Dr. Shukri's balcony, which overlooks all of Turmasaye, the impact of settler expansion is visible. Israeli settlers have barred landowners from accessing two-thirds of their property. "We don't, we cannot go beyond this house here, my cousin's house

over there, and this house over there. The first one you came here, we cannot. Everybody go there will be in there," he explained, pointing to buildings now occupied by settlers and marked with Israeli flags.

Daily Threats and Legal Precedent

Fear is palpable throughout the community. Settler attacks occur daily, and during a recent visit, settlers were observed expanding another illegal settlement outpost on Palestinian land. One resident expressed a common concern: "My biggest fear is, you know, having a settler come into my house and asking me to leave at gunpoint."

Yassir, who practiced law in Anaheim, California for 36 years and now serves as a council member in Turmasaye, has experienced settler aggression directly. "I, for myself, own two acres just down from here, about 100 meters down from here, and I cannot reach it because I tried many, many times. The usual response I get is a settler with a gun asking me to leave. You know, if somebody points a gun at you and asks you to leave, you're going to leave." He noted that while U.S. citizenship should theoretically provide protection, lived experience in Turmasaye tells a different story. The American flag, he suggested, should offer residents a cushion of protection—but in practice, it has not.

#Turmasaye West Bank #American citizens Palestine #Settler violence #Military occupation home raids #Land access restrictions #Palestinian displacement #U.S. diplomatic protection

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