



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Updates on the Settler-Siege on Qusra, Settler-Takeover of Palestinian Homes in Atara

13.8.2026

We are increasingly alarmed by the growing scope and escalating nature of settler violence in the West Bank, including a worrying expansion into Areas A and B and a growing pattern of settlers forcibly taking over Palestinian homes and land.

We urgently call the international community to act now. Immediate pressure must be placed on GOI to stop further attacks and ensure the protection of Palestinians and their property in accordance with Israel's obligations under international law.

In this update, we will focus on settler takeovers in Area B of the West Bank:

- Updates on the settler-siege in Qusra
- Settler-takeover of Palestinian Homes in Atara

The Settler Siege in Qusra

Since Sunday, 9 August 2026, two Palestinian families in Qusra (Area B) have been effectively under siege by Israeli settlers, who have blocked access routes, harassed the residents, and restricted their access to basic services and assistance. As of this morning (13.8.2026), the army is evacuating the settlers and a few outposts in the area and has ordered the two Palestinian families and other families nearby to leave their homes within 30 minutes for three days. No reason for the order was given. Reportedly, the army also imposed a closure on the entire village. Attempts by Yesh Din, which legally represents the families, to address the military on the matter went unanswered until this moment.

Settlers from the unauthorized outpost known as “Tel Talpiot” established a new structure/sukkah near the homes, blocked access roads with piles of stones, damaged electricity and solar-panel connections, and destroyed water pipes. The families are confined to their homes with dwindling supplies of food and water and no electricity. Two young girls, aged four and ten, and their mother were evacuated from one of the houses after one of the girls needed urgent medical care.

Despite the army's awareness of the situation, its response has been strikingly ineffective: the army failed to remove the settlers or ensure the families' safety. This is not simply a failure of the army to respond - it reflects a policy of systematic impunity toward settler violence in which the state tolerates, facilitates, and enables settler violence and the dispossession of Palestinians.

On behalf of the two besieged families, on 11 August 2026, Yesh Din sent a letter to the Military Commander of the WB, Avi Bluth, and senior officials in the military and Israeli law enforcement system. The letter urgently demands that the military will (a) evacuate the outpost and actively prevent its residents and other Israeli citizens from remaining there, (b) ensure the safety and security of the Palestinian families and their property, and (c) take legal action against the perpetrators and ensure that they are held accountable. An additional urgent letter was sent on August 12. Neither letter was answered by any of the recipients.



Dozens of settlers are trying to break into the courtyard of one of the homes of the besieged families in Qusra. Photo by: Hassan family. Date: 12.8.2026

[Posted on Yesh Din's X account.](#)

In a post shared by Yesh Din on X yesterday, 11 August, you can see a video of Qusai Abu Ridi, one of the besieged residents, calling on the international community for assistance and displaying the last items of food the family has to survive on.

VIDEO CAN BE SEEN [HERE](#)

This siege is part of a broader pattern of violent land-takeover and the establishment of new outposts in area B. Authorities are not taking effective law-enforcement measures, allowing the spread of violence and dispossession to escalate. Unless the authorities take decisive enforcement action against the perpetrators, dismantle the mother outposts from which they came, and maintain a permanent military presence to prevent their return, the same pattern will recur soon.

We call the international community to act now. Immediate pressure must be placed on GOI to prevent further attacks, allow the Palestinian families to safely return to their homes and hold the perpetrators accountable in accordance with Israel's obligations under international law.

Takeover of Palestinian homes in Atara

As part of a broader policy of settler violence, land seizure, and the establishment and expansion of outposts in Area B, in August 2025, settlers established the illegal outpost of Kfar Tarfon near the homes of two families from the Palestinian village of Atara in Area B of the Ramallah governorate. Shortly afterward, the settlers began trespassing and breaking into the families' homes and properties, and soldiers who were accompanied by the settlers then expelled the Palestinian landowners from the area, claiming it had been declared a closed military zone.

In July 2026, the two families whose homes were taken, together with Yesh Din, filed a petition to the High Court of Justice after the Israel Police failed to act on the many complaints they filed. We are demanding that the Court order the authorities to fulfill their duty: remove the Israeli invaders from the homes and protect the Palestinian families from settler violence. The Court responded by ordering the State to provide an answer by 16 August 2026. Our request to hold an urgent hearing was denied.

Video footage showed that the settlers repeatedly broke into the houses, looted them, vandalized property, and began using the property for their own purposes. In one case, the settlers shared on social media that a settler family held a circumcision ceremony in the living room of one of the Palestinian homes and affixed a mezuzah to the doorframe, in what they described as the "redemption" of the house.

One of the settlers who has attacked the families and is taking over their property is a well-known violent settler. According to a letter sent by the Military Commander of the WB, the settler has a restraining order for **brutal attacks** he perpetrated in March 2026 against the Palestinian village of Khirbet Humsa al-Fawqa (northern Jordan Valley), where

men, women, and children were physically assaulted by a group of settlers, livestock were stolen, and property was damaged. In this incident, one Palestinian man was sexually assaulted by the settlers in front of his family, and the residents were threatened by the settlers with rape and expulsion

Yet again, attempts to seek help from the police went unanswered and in the year since the settlers first established the outpost, no Israeli security forces have come to the village. The Palestinian families stood on a nearby hill and watched as their property was stolen before their own eyes.



Israeli settlers perform a circumcision ceremony in a Palestinian home they invaded in Atara, Area B.

Credit: Channel 14 News.

[Read the Full Petition](#)

We highlight with **increasing concern** the growing trend of **settler attacks against Palestinians and Palestinian property in Areas A**

and B, and the increasing trend of settlers' invasions of Palestinian homes. In addition to Atara, Yesh Din documented such home invasions and takeovers in Qabalan, Jawarish, Yanun, and Birzeit.

We call on the international community to act urgently. Immediate and sustained pressure must be brought to bear on the Government of Israel to halt settler attacks, prevent the unlawful seizure of Palestinian homes and land, and ensure the effective protection of Palestinian communities in accordance with Israel's obligations under international law.

WORTH READING:

[Article](#) by Yonatan Kanonich, Yesh Din's Director of Research:

Israel's Real West Bank Problem is not Settler Violence - It is the Settlement Enterprise.

The article describes how the very existence of Israeli settlements in the West Bank constitutes a form of structural violence against Palestinians. Using the planned re-establishment of Sa-Nur settlement as a case study, the article shows how military raids, arrests, land seizure, and restrictions on Palestinian access began even before settlers returned to the area, illustrating how settlement expansion reshapes Palestinian life through state mechanisms as well as settler violence.

"Settlerism stands in direct opposition to democracy. It preserves and deepens a military regime that rules over people who have no political rights, no meaningful control over their own lives, and no ability to vote for the government that determines their future."

Join Our WhatsApp Group for Diplomatic Updates

We invite you to join our WhatsApp group for diplomatic updates, in which we send periodic updates on important developments in the West Bank easily and conveniently. It is a 'silent' group, meaning only the administrators can post messages, and there are no conversations or debates. You are welcome to join and share the link with colleagues.

Join Yesh Din's new WhatsApp group

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For any enquiries, please contact Jack Munayer: jackm@yesh-din.org

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