



## Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

**Violent attacks by hundreds of Israelis against Palestinian villages ongoing since June 20; many injuries and catastrophic property damage; erection of at least eight new outposts**

Following Israel's disastrous military invasion of Jenin on June 19 and the subsequent attack in which four Israelis were murdered near the settlement Eli, Israeli civilians have launched continuous, violent attacks in Palestinian towns and along roadsides throughout the West Bank. These attacks demonstrate definitively that Israeli authorities continue to grant Israelis free reign to attack Palestinians and have made no efforts to improve law enforcement following the deplorable pogrom in Huwwara which took place just four months ago.

The attacks are characterized by large groups of settlers, often armed with live ammunition, invading Palestinian villages, throwing stones and setting fire to cars, agricultural lands and homes (some [with people inside](#)). Israeli soldiers, who have been present during most of the attacks, continue to refrain from stopping the Israeli attackers and intervene only to join the attacks against Palestinians.

**Tuesday, June 20**

Israelis [launched pogroms](#) in the Palestinian towns of **A Luban a-Sharqiya and Qablan**, **injuring eight Palestinians**, and setting homes, cars, places of businesses and a petrol station ablaze. Several tens of dunams of agricultural lands and crops were also burned. That same night, Yesh Din received reports of attacks in **Huwwara** and **Baytin** as well. The three Israeli suspects who were arrested have already been released.



The village Al-Luban Al-Sharqiya on fire, June 20.

**Wednesday, June 21**

Over 200 Israelis descended on the town of **Turmusayya** in broad daylight, some of them armed with guns. Over the next several hours, they wreaked havoc on the town: at least [30 homes and 60 cars](#) were burned. Despite the large presence of Israeli security forces during

the attack, not a single Israeli attacker was arrested. However, a 27-year-old Palestinian-American and father of two, **Omar Qateen, was shot dead by Israeli forces.**

The attacks continued that night as Israelis invaded the village of **Urif**, [burned a school](#), severely damaged a mosque, and reportedly cut off the village's access to electricity, which had still not been restored as of Thursday. Footage from yesterday shows an Israeli standing outside the mosque and [tearing a holy Quran to pieces](#).



A holy Quran after being shredded to pieces by an Israeli, June 22. Photo: local activists.

### **Thursday, June 22**

Around 18:00 yesterday, Israelis launched an attack on **Jalud**, setting fire to structures, with the Red Crescent reporting [five Palestinians injured](#). Around 20:00 Israelis again attacked **Turmusayya**, but this time the large presence of Palestinian residents managed to fend off the attack before serious damage was done. At around 23:00 tens of

Israelis launched an attack on the neighboring town of **Sinjil**. Shortly afterwards Israelis, many armed with guns, launched an attack in **Umm Safa**, resulting in 11 Palestinians injured tear gas fired by soldiers. The mayor of Umm Safa reported to Yesh Din that there was a large Israeli military presence at the entrance to the town who allowed the settlers to enter. Around 24:00 we received reports of live rounds being fired both from Israeli civilians and military forces.

### **Erection of new outposts and land takeover**

As we have witnessed many times over, Israelis seized upon the lawless spirit of the times to establish new outposts throughout the West Bank. Yesh Din received reports of at least eight new outposts established and of settlers repopulating Evyatar. In a similar spirit, on June 21 the Israeli government announced the approval of 1,000 new housing units to be constructed in the settlement Eli.

- On June 20, Israeli civilians, reportedly with permission from the Prime Minister, renewed their presence in the illegal outpost Evyatar on the lands of the Palestinian town of Beita, which is a classified closed military zone and in which their presence is illegal.
- On June 21, Israelis established two new outposts: near the Givat Haro'eh junction, on lands belonging to the Palestinian residents of Sinjil and on lands belonging to Al-Luban Al-Sharqiya.
- Yesterday, Yesh Din received reports that tents and other illegal Israeli structures had been established in six more locations, on lands belonging to the villages: Mukhmas, Tekoa, Al Mu'arajat, Deir Istiya, Qaryut and Umm Safa.



New caravan units erected on the lands of Sinjil, June 22. Photo: Sinjil resident.

### **Yesh Din's response**

Yesh Din has spent several long days in direct communication with the Israel police and the legal advisor to the West Bank. Despite our urging, the police has failed to respond to the attacks almost entirely, at times arriving only many hours after the attacks have concluded.

Yesterday, June 22, we sent an urgent letter to the Israel's Attorney General, detailing the many violent attacks and new outpost erection and demanding that Israeli authorities take control of the situation to enforce the law on the Israeli attackers. Unfortunately, years of experience lead us to assume with a high degree of certainty that Israel will not fulfill its obligations and will not enforce the law on the Israeli offenders, nor will the condemnations issued by members of the international community lead to effective law enforcement.

**The State of Israel, with PM Netanyahu and Ministers Smotrich**

and Ben Gvir – both of whom are settlers themselves – at the helm, have completely forsaken the Palestinians whom they are obligated to protect. The spilt blood of a Palestinian clearly holds no weight in their eyes.

We urge the international community to take immediate action by demanding the following from Israeli authorities:

1. That the newly established outposts be dismantled and that Evyatar is evacuated;
2. That a special committee be appointed to investigate the flagrant violations and inaction of the Israeli military during the Huwwara pogrom and the attacks of recent days;
3. That the Israelis who committed attacks on Palestinians be brought to justice.

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