

## 7 October Fallout:

## "Settler Violence!!!!"

# Negative Campaign Against Israel In Wartime

*"Horrible crimes have been committed against us - and yet, we are being treated as criminals."* 

"We cannot allow this to happen..."

Israeli survivors of the 7 October massacre

## INTRODUCTION

#### "Settler violence" is not a particular Israeli shortcoming. It is, instead, an international campaign – AGAINST Israel, which has streamed through content sites with a total exposure of over 4 billion visits monthly, gravely misleading American Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and other senior political figures.

This study will show that "settler violence" is not a particular Israeli shortcoming. After all, no country has a 0% crime rate, and no police force in the world has a 100% crime enforcement rate ("clearance rate").

Instead, "settler violence" **is a wide-spread negative campaign – against Israel.** The campaign goals for 2023 seem to be to:

- O generate a disproportionate media onslaught against the half-million Jews of Judea-Samaria;
- deploy this smear campaign to tar the State of Israel by association in the court of world opinion
  just as Israel is fighting for its life against terrorist organizations amassed along all its borders, in the aftermath of the 7 October massacre.
- foster a false moral equivalence between the October 7th massacre and imputed "settler violence" to mitigate Israel's response to Hamas terrorism
- O strike a specious balance, hoping to appease anti-Israel protesters in Western countries

This study finds that the United Nations, the chief source for "settler violence" content, cited by BBC, CNN, MSN, New York Times, AFP, Yahoo, Washington Post, AP News, Reuters, NBC, ABC, CBC and others, is not a credible source for "settler violence" content.

## History Of The "Settler Violence" Campaign

The term "settler violence" was coined in 2007 or earlier. See e.g

Funding for groups which promoted the term was provided by the European Union, for example:

As early as 2008, allegations that settlers had "thrown acid" were "widely publicized" in the media. The false accusation "continued to resurface in the media and was cited as an example of settler violence." Eventually, however, the Jerusalem Post established that "no evidence has been presented to substantiate the claim":

To this day, i.e. a decade and a half later, the discredited "acid" allegation still appears, uncorrected, in The Guardian - whose website is said to attract over 300 million (!) visits each month:

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Prominent media were sometimes caught red-handed publishing wild allegations about severe Israeli violence toward Palestinians. For example, in 2016, TIME magazine published that a "Palestinian graphic designer" was "killed by Israel." TIME obstinately refused to correct the article when it was repeatedly brought to TIME's attention that the "graphic designer" had slaughtered 3 Israeli bus passengers just moments before. Source:

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## 2023 Worldwide "Settler Violence" Campaign Via Content Sites Racking Up Over 4 Billion Visits Per Month

Campaign Audience (visit s/ month)	Link to content & date of distribution	Who's Fronting	Content Supplier	"Violence has doubled" soundbite -included?
BBC 1.2 BN	21 Oct https://www.bbc.com/news/world- middle-east-67173344	-	UN B'Tselem Yesh Din	"settler violence up from three a day to eight"
CNN 805 M	11 Nov https://edition.cnn.com/2023/11/11/ middleeast/west-bank-restrictions- violence-intl-cmd/index.html	Biden	UN (OCHA)	"More Palestinians killed since October 7 than across 2022 by Israeli forces"
MSN 665 M	16 Nov https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/world/ france-calls-west-bank-israeli-settler- violence-policy-of-terror/ar-AA1k2E0y (Reuters)	France Biden	UN, Yesh Din	"daily settler attacks have more than doubled"
	3 Dec https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/world/ palestinian-man-killed-in-west-bank-in- israeli-settler-raid/ar-AA1kVpm2			SPECIAL NOTE: MSN provided balance
New York Times 642 M	30 Oct https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/30/ world/middleeast/west-bank-settlers- palestinians-violence.html	-	UN (OCHA)	"Attacks on Palestinians are surging"
Daily Mail 415.1 M	7 Oct https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/ article-12604497/Israel-says-striking- Gaza-targets-Hamas-announces-new- operation.html	-	-	"rise in Israeli settler violence"
Agence France Press	15 Nov https://www.france24.com/en/live- news/20231115-surging-israeli-settler- violence-puts-west-bank-palestinians- on-edge	-	UN (OCHA)	"more than six incidents per day Before the war, three a day"
The Guardian 376.9 M	31 Oct https://www.theguardian.com/ world/2023/oct/31/west-bank- palestinian-villages-israeli-army-settlers	State Dept	B'Tselem	"Settler violence worse than ever."
Yahoo 251.4 M	3 Nov (Reuters) https://news.yahoo.com/settler-violence- escalated-dramatically-u-153651142.html	Washing- ton, EU	UN (OCHA)	"Violence surged further"

## Table 1 (continued)

Washington Post 155.4 M	30 Oct https://www.washingtonpost.com/ world/2023/10/30/west-bank-settlers- violence-palestinians/	-	UN (OCHA)	"cases of settler violencehave escalated rapidly"
USAtoday 148.3 M	9 Dec https://www.usatoday.com/story/ news/world/israel-hamas/2023/11/10/ israel-hamas-war-gaza-live- updates/71528065007/	Biden, Blinken	_	_
AP News 117.1 M	20 Nov https://apnews.com/article/palestinians- israel-west-bank-war-gaza-hamas- settlers-army-raid-militants-c1386ab6a63 3971cc18b2497169210d3	Biden	UN Yesh Din etc.	"Israeli settler attacks have surged"
Reuters 113.2 M	16 Nov https://www.reuters.com/world/middle- east/france-calls-west-bank-israeli- settler-violence-policy-terror-2023-11-16/	-	UN	"daily settler attacks have more than doubled"
NBC 101.5 M	3 Nov https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/ israel-gaza-west-bank-settler-violence- palestinians-rcna123311	Biden, State Dept	UN, B'Tselem	"surge of violence by extremist Israeli settlers"
Times of Israel 64.2 M	25 Oct https://www.timesofisrael.com/rights- group-reports-over-100-assaults-by- settlers-on-palestinians-since-wars- start/	_	Yesh Din	"uptick in settler violence"
ABC 62.5 M	10 Nov https://abcnews.go.com/International/ west-bank-violence-escalated- dramatically-killings-displacement-rise/ story?id=104609970	-	UN (OCHA)	"cases of settler violencehave escalated rapidly"
CBC 54.2 M	6 Nov https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/ west-bank-settlers-violence-israel- palestinians-1.7019263	Blinken	B'Tselem UN (OCHA), Yesh Din	"Settler violence has doubled since Oct 7"
US News 40 M	16 Nov (Reuters) https://www.usnews.com/news/world/ articles/2023-11-16/france-calls-west- bank-israeli-settler-violence-policy-of- terror	"France"	UN	"daily settler attacks have more than doubled"
Vox 20.8 M	2 Dec https://www.vox.com/ politics/2023/12/2/23984104/west-bank- israel-palestine-settler-violence)	Biden	B'Tselem	"since October 7, violence has significantly increased"

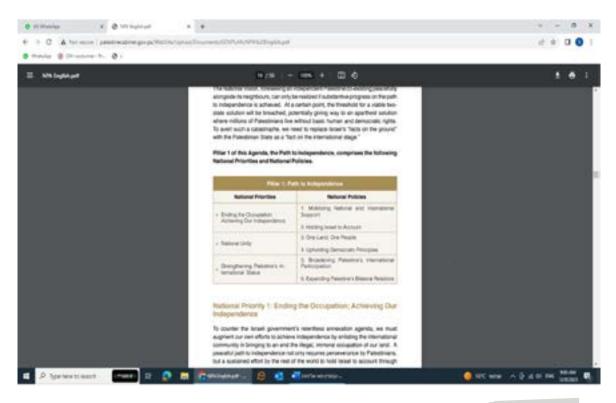
## Table 1 (continued)

US News 40 M	16 Nov (Reuters) https://www.usnews.com/news/world/ articles/2023-11-16/france-calls-west- bank-israeli-settler-violence-policy-of- terror	"France"	UN	"daily settler attacks have more than doubled"
Vox 20.8 M	2 Dec https://www.vox.com/ politics/2023/12/2/23984104/west-bank- israel-palestine-settler-violence)	Biden	B'Tselem	"since October 7, violence has significantly increased"
Wall Street Journal 3.8 M	3 Dec https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/ palestinians-in-west-bank-flee-after- settler-violence-we-were-forced-to- leave-7d3c1988	Blinken	UN, B'Tselem	"violent assaults by Israeli settlers have doubled"

## "Violent assaults by Israeli settlers ... have doubled"??

The 2023 "Settler Violence" campaign is a form of **negative campaigning** which Wikipedia defines as "the process of deliberately spreading negative information about someone or something to worsen the public image of the described."

Table 1 presents examples of heads of state and mass media participating in the 2023 "Settler Violence" campaign which streams through content sites whose total exposure exceeds 4 billion (!) visits per month. This study does not address the difficult questions of which PR experts, funded by whom, are pitching the "settler violence" content to the media, and which lobbyists, again funded by whom, are coordinating the governmental participation in the campaign. However, one possible direction for further research is that "holding Israel to account" has been an official goal of the Palestinian cabinet for years, the Palestinian cabinet being a recipient of copious amounts of international funds.



#### Holding Israel to account": an official goal of the Palestinian cabinet:

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Urged to take to the airways and disseminate "settler violence" messaging, heads of state and journalists can opt to fact-check using any of the following 3 sources:

- O Israel Police officially responsible for crime-fighting in Judea-Samaria,
- O United Nations, and
- O Non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Of the three, only Israel Police is a professional crime investigatory body having the authority, trained manpower and will to evaluate criminal allegations in Judea-Samaria. The UN and non-governmental organizations lack these and simply generate a steady stream of criminal allegations - without differentiating non-factual from factual and without clarifying that this is all they are doing and that the **allegations** do not undergo the rigors of criminal investigation.

As Table 1 shows, some leaders and journalists did not specify a source at all, and the rest relied only on the UN or on NGOs, chiefly on the UN. Moreover, NGOs with different data, such as Hatzala, are disregarded:

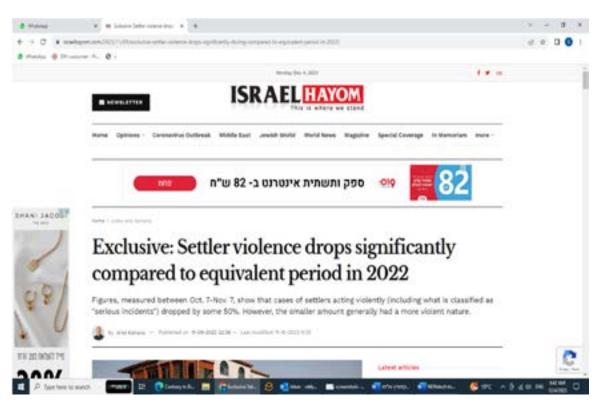
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To justify the massive coverage devoted to the settler violence campaign, as presented in Table 1, allegations were made that a newsworthy event had recently occurred namely that "settler violence" had recently "doubled" or "surged." The last column in Table 1 shows that many media organizations wrote about this - including BBC, MSN, NYT, AFP, Yahoo, Washington Post, AP News, Reuters, NBC and CBC.

## Yet Israel Police data - which was not taken into account by the journalists and leaders - indicated the opposite.

Specifically, Yisrael HaYom, Israel's largest daily, published that between "October 7, when the war began, and November 7, there were 97 incidents of various illegal activities attributed to Jews, in that area, down from 184 offenses in the equivalent period in 2022. The decrease is observed across the whole spectrum of offenses: violent clashes (20 compared to 53), popular terrorism (47 compared to 103), violent attacks (5 compared to 10), assaults on security forces (4 compared to 10), and agricultural vandalism (97 compared to 184). In the category of "serious attacks," which usually concern US officials the most, there were zero incidents in the measured 30 days, compared to 3 incidents during the same period a year earlier.

"These figures contradict the claims of the American government that there is supposedly an increase in incidents of "extremist settler violence" in Judea and Samaria."



None of the media channels in Table 1 covered the Israel Police data. Possible reasons for this include:

- C Left-affiliated media view "settlers" (affiliated with the Right) as political opponents; unlikely to call out a negative campaign against "settlers."
- Willful disregard of the "guilt by association" dynamic affecting all Israelis and Jews worldwide which is a by-product of "settler violence" campaign.
- O Part of the general phenomenon of a foreign press corps pre-disposed against Israel.
- Prevalent discounting of Israel Hayom, which broke the story (Wikipedia: "Israel Hayom has often been criticized for portraying Netanyahu in an overly positive light).
- O Discounting of Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's Minister of Internal Security, a far-right political figure.
- O General phenomenon of media reluctance to correct a story already run.

## Is The United Nations A Credible Source For "Settler Violence" Content?

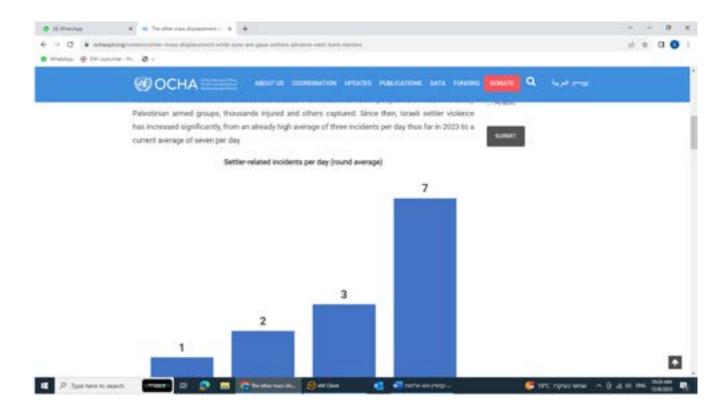
The United Nations is the chief source for "settler violence" content, cited by BBC, CNN, MSN, New York Times, AFP, Yahoo, Washington Post, AP News, Reuters, NBC, ABC, CBC and others. For example, Politico ("We dedicate ourselves to providing accurate, nonpartisan impactful information") wrote on 18 November 2023 that "settler violence" has been counted seven times daily since 7 October:

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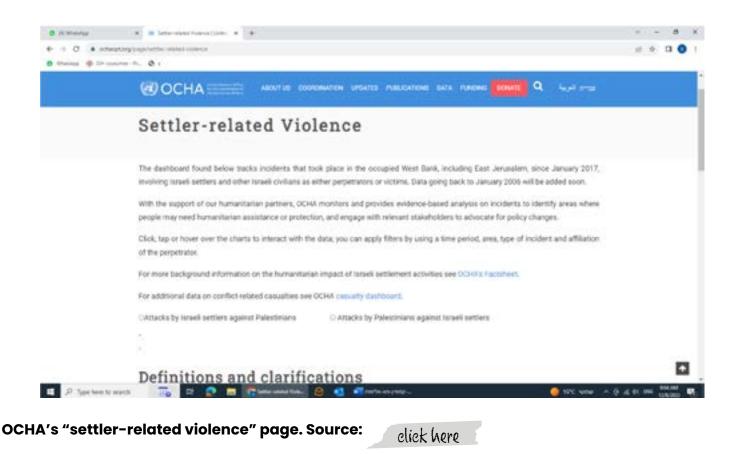
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Politico cited "the United Nations" as their source and linked to this OCHA web-page:

The UN News page "reporting" a "rise in settler violence" links to the same OCHA page:

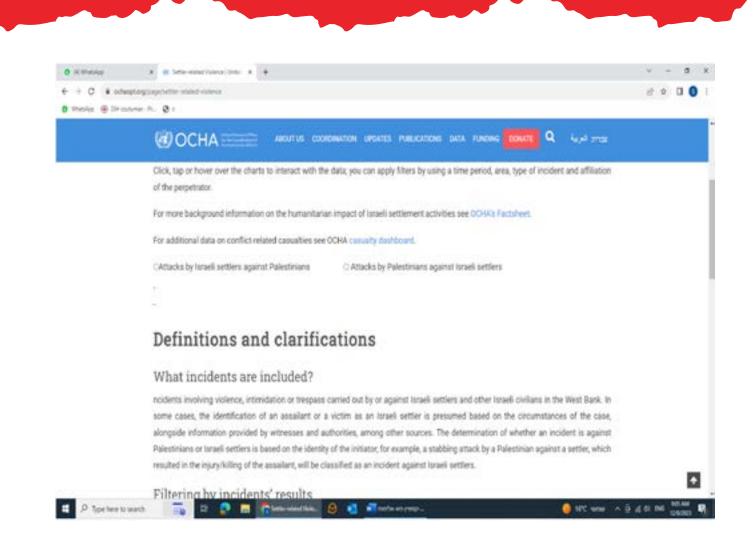


"Settler violence" international media campaign centers on this OCHA page presenting that "settler violence" has allegedly "more than doubled." But the graph below the statement, in the UN agency website, is in fact labelled "settler-related" incidents – a term which the UN defines elsewhere as including attacks in which settlers are victims rather than perpetrators! The OCHA page indeed alleges that "Israeli **settler violence** has increased significantly, from .... three incidents per day ... to a current average of seven per day." This is followed by a colorful graph showing columns labelled "3" and "7." However, the graph is NOT labelled "settler violence." Instead, the graph is labelled "settler-**related** incidents." OCHA does have a page about "settler-**related**" violence, here:



That page refers visitors to "the dashboard found below." However, there is no dashboard to be found "below." The OCHA page on settler "related" violence does have "definitions" however, including the following (emphasis added):

Definitions and clarifications
What incidents are included?
Incidents involving violence, intimidation or trespass carried out by or against Israeli
settlers and other Israeli civilians in the West Bank. In some cases, the identification of
an assailant as an Israeli settler <b>is presumed</b> based on the circumstances of the case, alongside information provided by witnesses and authorities, among other sources
The perpetrator can be an Israeli settler, a member of the security forces who intervened in a settler-related incident, or both.



#### UN Agency's "settler-related violence" web-page says violence against Israeli settlers is included. Source:

In other words, violence AGAINST settlers is also counted, by the UN, as "settler-related violence."

The UN also defines that if an IDF soldier injured a Palestinian in a "settler-related incident" (a term which is not defined), that is also counted as "settler violence." But Times of Israel, who contacted the IDF, learned that "the vast majority" of Palestinians killed since October 7 were shot not by settlers but by the IDF "during clashes amid arrest raids. Around 60% of them, according to data seen by The Times of Israel, were armed with either a firearm or an explosive device." The IDF also told Times of Israel that the number of cases "of settlers killing Palestinians" was "a handful" and the question of whether or not these were criminal as opposed to self-defense, was "still under investigation." Source:

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Moreover, OCHA itself does not seem to evaluate whether or not civilians ("settlers") were acting in self-defense. The fact that the agency feels no need to do so, is itself strong evidence of the agency's real motivation: not to prevent violence, but to tarnish Israel's image ("hold Israel to account").

Self-defense is an important dynamic in Judea-Samaria. For example, 3,382 stone-throwing and Molotov cocktails attacks targeting Israeli civilians were recorded by the IDF during 2022 alone (source: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rym8e8mvs).

Also, the Political Bureau of Hamas (perpetrators of the 7 October massacre) explicitly stated that "inshallah (please G-d), in the near future [the 7 October massacre] will happen in the West Bank." (source: https://www.memri.org/tv/snr-fatah-official-abbas-zaki-praises-hamas-invasion-israelosama-hamdan-prepared-west-bank-too).

Thus the UN agency's failure to address self-defense is a fatal flaw in the UN's methodology.

Given 3,382 stone-throwing and Molotov cocktails attacks targeting Israeli civilians were recorded during 2022 alone (source: https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rym8e8mvs), self defense became an imperative. Since the Political Bureau of Hamas, perpetrators of the October 7th massacre, has explicitly stated that "inshallah (please G-d), in the near future [the October 7th massacre] will happen in the West Bank," self-defense remains vital going forward (source: https://www.memri.org/ tv/snr-fatah-official-abbas-zaki-praises-hamas-invasion-israel-osama-hamdan-prepared-westbank-too)

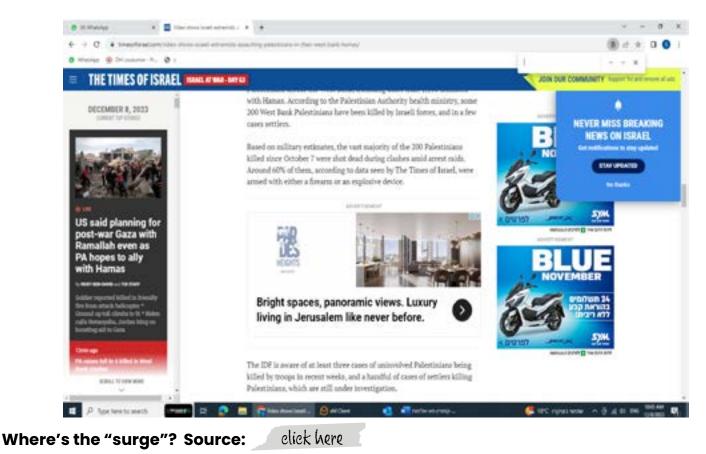
OCHA also does not seem to exclude activities of civilian security teams in Judea-Samaria, from their "settler violence" category. But activity of civilian security teams saved entire kibbutzim from death, in the 7 October massacre.

<u>Conclusion:</u> The United Nations, the chief source for "settler violence" content, cited by BBC, CNN, MSN, New York Times, AFP, Yahoo, Washington Post, AP News, Reuters, NBC, ABC, CBC and others, is not a credible source.

Specifically, the UN falsely generates defamatory "settler violence" content -- which mass media and world leaders then mistakenly use as "data" - by:

- C conflating extensive violence AGAINST settlers with rare violence BY settlers and calling both together "settler-RELATED" violence.
- ignoring that a "vast majority" of Palestinians killed and attributed to "settler violence" were NOT "innocent Palestinian civilians shot by settlers" and were instead shot during IDF arrest raids targeting terrorists given Hamas is rampant in Judea-Samaria.
- O distributing "settler violence" content without proof the "handful" of cases of settlers killing Palestinians are still under investigation and may be self-defense

Significantly, even the Palestinian Authority admits: Palestinians were killed "by Israeli forces", by settlers in only "a few cases," as shown here:



The centerpiece of the "settler violence" media campaign is an alleged "surge in settler violence". Compare with military estimates: "Vast majority" of the 200 killed "during clashes amid arrest raids" i.e. during combat between Palestinian terror groups and IDF; "handful" of settlers killing Palestinians "still under investigation" i.e. may be self-defense. Significantly, even the Palestinian Authority admits Palestinians were killed "by Israeli forces", by settlers in only "a few cases."

## Fighting dirty: Media tricks used by the UN against Israel -Manipulation Of Emotions - Yes. Facts - No

To bolster the "settler violence" campaign against Israel, UN content manipulates emotions, without providing facts.

#### Example 1: Husband was "run over by settlers"

OCHA refers to: "Wa'ad, 26, mother of six whose husband was run over by settlers in 2021." Source: click here

OCHA's content does not provide any documentation, such as a death certificate or police investigation indicating cause of death. OCHA'S recounting does not even indicate the most basic details such as Wa'ad's last name, her husband's full name, and was the husband killed or injured when he was run over. The lack of information leaves open even the most obvious possibility namely that the tragedy was simply a traffic accident.

#### Example 2: A blatant example of dramatic yet completely untrue oral testimony

A blatant example of dramatic yet completely untrue oral testimony was published in the media and disseminated by a senior United Nations official, in 2021. A UN official briefed the UNSC about a Palestinian teen who insisted that he was "kidnapped," "tied to a tree," and "had his feet burned," all by settlers. Haaretz coverage of the incident was headlined, "Shackled, Beaten, Strung Up on a Tree." The teen was filmed by a Palestinian NGO showing marks on his feet. Samaria Regional Council head Yossi Dagan assigned researchers to look into the matter. Dagan's researchers spoke to settlers who said that a group of teens, including the 15 year old, had been throwing rocks but ran away when settlers ran after them to make a citizens' arrest. This, in Israel and in other countries, is legal so long as the citizens hand the suspect over to the police immediately, which the settlers did.

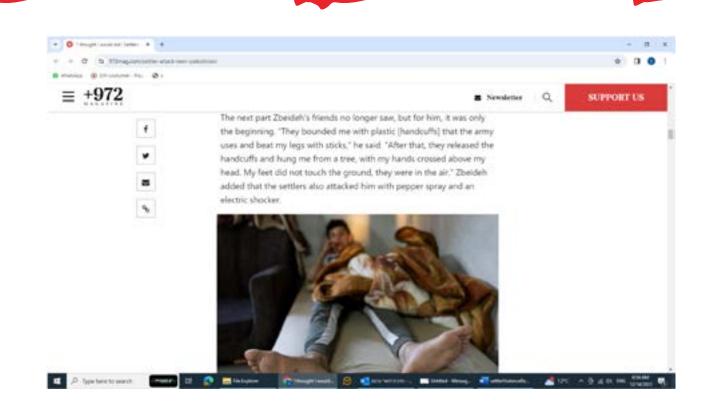
Of the group of rock-throwers, only the 15 year old was caught since unlike his friends, he was wearing flip-flops, not shoes. Therefore, he could not flee effectively and also injured his feet running over a dirt road with many sharp stones. This probably resulted in the hemorrhages (marks) on the soles of his feet.

Dagan accused the UN official of gullibly rushing to bring an uninvestigated accusation, which turned out to be false, to the UNSC. Dagan also said the UN official was antisemitic for calling this fake crime "heinous" while calling convicted Palestinian murderers "martyrs."

Finally, Dagan asked the UNSC to amend its protocols. In the two years which have elapsed, the UNSC failed to do so and the briefing remains here:

click here

Dagan's handling of this fake-settler-violence story was covered by the Jerusalem Post, here: click here



"The next part Zbeideh's friends no longer saw" – unsubstantiated manipulation of emotion in the United Nations Security Council. A senior UNSC official officially reported that "settlers" had "kidnapped" a teen, "tied him to a tree, and… burned him" – all based on emotion-laden media reports lacking substantiation and police investigation. The unsubstantiated accusation was dramatically termed "heinous" by the official, in a UNSC session. In contrast, Palestinian murderers duly convicted in a court of law were termed "martyrs" – by the same official, in the same UNSC session.

### Are Non-Governmental Organizations Reliable Sources of "Settler Violence" Content?

Some items in Table 1 cite NGOs rather than, or in addition to, the United Nations as a source for their "settler violence" content. But content generated by non-governmental organizations, mainly Yesh-Din and B'Tselem, do not prove the existence of "settler violence" as a phenomenon:

**No criminal investigation:** NGOs rely on personal testimony, do not and cannot conduct criminal investigation as a police force would, do not limit themselves to police-reported testimony and do not even insist alleged victims report allegations to the police. Yesh-Din, for example, confirmed to our researchers that "few victims" bother to file a police complaint:

From: INFO - YESH DIN <info@yesh-din.org></info@yesh-din.org>
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 10:37 AM
То:
Subject: RE: attn YeshDin - please can you get back by end of day tomorrow (30 Nov)?
Some of the incidents are documented and published on social media. The description
can be found <u>here.</u>
The few victims of offense who choose to file a complaint to the police receive legal
representation from Yesh Din.
Let us know if you have any further questions.

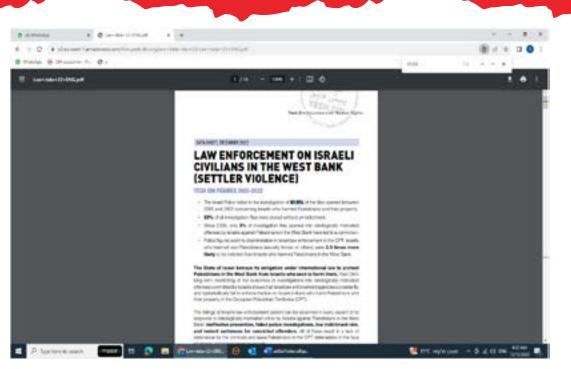
Thus, Yesh-Din disseminates settler violence allegations without insisting their Palestinian interviewees file police complaints.

**Wrong methodology:** Yesh Din alleges that "police has failed in the investigation of 81.5% of files.... 1,172 were closed on the grounds of offender unknown or insufficient evidence, \*indicating the police found that an offense had been committed\*." Source:

But in police science, this is untrue. "Offender unknown" or "insufficient evidence" closures do NOT prove an offense to been committed; they indicate only that an offense may have been committed – that police cannot conclusively prove an offense was NOT committed. And such outcomes certainly do not indicate that the perpetrator, if any, was a settler e.g. not a Palestinian.

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Conclusion: NGOs which provide "settler violence" content to journalists and leaders simply generate a stream of criminal allegations whose sole utility is to turn world opinion against Israel. These "settler violence" allegations are knowingly not subjected to investigation, do not constitute data and are not a proper basis for either policy or reputable media coverage.



Yesh Din insists Israel "betrays its obligation under international law to protect Palestinians" – with what justification?

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"Insufficient evidence" doesn't prove an offense has been committed: Yesh Din's erroneous justification for alleging "Israel betrays its obligation under international law."

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Anthony Blinken, who was misled into taking to heart the "settler violence" campaign, now needs to determine whether the campaign he unjustifiably befriended serves, or **negates**, the interests of the United States and of the West.

Considerations include:

- O UN content, especially about Israel, is not always factual
- Continuing to cooperate with the "settler violence" campaign may further stir up Jew-hatred without justification. Commentator Melanie Phillips recently warned, not for the first time, that "A direct line runs between defamation of Israel and attacks on Jews."
- Il-timed injustice: The "settler violence" campaign is a double-messaging media fire-bomb being lobbed unjustifiably at Israel, just as the only Jewish state in the world fights to protect Western civilization by preventing recurrence of the 7 October massacres.
- No country or region achieves a 0% crime rate and a 100% crime enforcement rate. Reducing violent crime, worldwide, is a worthy goal; but it can be pursued using conventional police science techniques. In no way does this goal require airing negative campaigns against Israel, particularly not during wartime.

