

Israel fans West Bank wildfires

Settler violence sweeping the illegally-occupied Palestinian West Bank serves Israeli government policy. The Army allows attacks on Palestinian villages, soldiers mingle with the settlers, new settlements multiply as Israel edges towards full annexation.

Qusra

On 9 August settlers camped next to Palestinian houses in Qusra, a village southeast of Nablus. They cut off water and electricity, blocked food from entering, delayed ambulances and besieged the extended families inside their own homes.

The families phoned the so-called "Israel Defense Forces" for protection. The IDF turned up and soldiers prayed alongside



Outside a mosque burned and defaced in an early morning attack by Israeli settlers in the West Bank village Qusra, 26 July 2026 (AP Photo/Leo Correa)

settlers. The IDF later bulldozed the settlers' encampment. It was rebuilt quickly as the siege continued throughout August. The IDF did not arrest settlers but attacked Palestinians. *"They handcuffed us with our hands behind our backs and blindfolded us, and beat us inside the house,"* one Qusra resident told Israeli media.

Similar incidents spread across the West Bank with new outposts in land supposedly under partial Palestinian Authority control. Settlers recently called for another 100 outposts in areas A and B (full and partial PA control). Politicians from Likud (Netanyahu's party) and Religious Zionism attended their event. Government Minister Amichai Chikli called on Israelis "to completely break free from the perspective" that any land is controlled by Palestinians.

Undermining Palestinian civil society

The World Health Organisation has documented escalating attacks on West Bank **healthcare**, with 37 incidents in July including assaults on health facilities and medical vehicles and the arrest or detention of health workers and patients.

The Army is trying to collapse basic **law and order**, allowing Palestinian criminal gangs to pass through checkpoints while preventing the Palestinian police from making arrests.

These strategies echo **Gaza** where Israel destroyed hospitals, killed 1,700 healthworkers, and IDF-backed gangs roam free.

Religious Zionism leader Smotrich says *"We will need a war in Judea and Samaria"* – the West Bank. The aim, shared by Prime Minister Netanyahu, is simple: No Palestinian State, and full Israeli control of the West Bank. In other words, **Annexation**.

