



ISSUE BRIEF: US GOVERNMENT MUST ACT TO STOP WAVE OF PALESTINIAN DISPLACEMENT FROM THE WEST BANK

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As detailed in a [major article](#) in The New York Times today, a major wave of Palestinian displacement is occurring in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The US government must act to stop Israel from allowing, and even enabling, the settler violence forcing Palestinian communities to uproot themselves. [For elaboration, see this recent [Shushan Street column](#).]

A major wave of Palestinian displacement is unfolding now in the West Bank:

- At a [rate without recorded precedent](#), Palestinians are being displaced from the West Bank. [Over 1,100 Palestinians](#) from herding communities have been [forced out](#), [many](#) in the large area extending east of Ramallah to Jericho's outskirts. Four herding communities have left that region and remaining communities there are under extreme [pressure](#).
- Daily incidents of settler violence against Palestinians have [tripled](#) since 2021. Israeli [farming and shepherding outposts](#) have become the "most significant mechanism for dispossessing Palestinian communities," taking around 60,000 acres of strategic territory (almost 7% of Area C of the West Bank).
- As the [occupying power](#) in the West Bank, Israel is [required](#) under international law to ensure the well-being of Palestinians living under occupation, who are "[protected persons](#)." In numerous cases, soldiers [have stood by](#) while settlers attacked Palestinians, and in other instances, soldiers [have aided](#) settler attacks. The State Department has [reported](#) that Israel has "rarely detained or charged perpetrators of settler violence."

Immediate action from the US government is needed to stop this displacement, including:

- In normalization talks between the US, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, push for changes in Israeli policies on the West Bank that could save Palestinian communities, including evacuations of settlers' illegal herding outposts and protection of Palestinian communities and accountability for settlers who incite or commit violent attacks – among a package of [measures](#) to advance Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution;
- Reinforce American opposition to settlements and the harm they do in general by revoking the "Pompeo Doctrine" – and thus publicly restoring the long standing, bipartisan US position that settlements are inconsistent with international law;
- Deny US entry visas to those who have engaged in, or incited settler violence against, Palestinian civilians;
- Investigate whether any US-origin military equipment has been used in connection with acts of settler violence (as well as other acts toward annexation) and, if so, determine whether such use constitutes a violation of US arms export control and/or foreign aid law;
- Make clear that the United States will not block accurate, appropriate actions in international fora, including at the United Nations Security Council and International Criminal Court, regarding settler violence (as well as other acts toward annexation).