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'Vigilante Violence' Is 'Completely Unacceptable': U.S. Reacts to Israeli Settler Rampage

'Accountability and justice should be pursued with equal rigor in all cases of extremist violence and equal resources dedicated to prevent such attacks and bring those responsible to justice,' State Department spokesperson Ned Price said

Ben Samuels | Washington Feb 27, 2023  Follow

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WASHINGTON — The Biden administration on Monday said that it expects the Israeli government to ensure full accountability for the Israeli settlers behind the rampage in the West Bank town of Hawara.

“The United States is extremely concerned by the events of this weekend and the continuing violence in Israel and the West Bank. As we noted yesterday, we condemn the horrific killing of two Israeli brothers near Nablus and the killing today of an Israeli near Jericho, who we understand was also an American citizen,” State Department spokesperson Ned Price said.

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“We express our deepest condolences to all of the victims’ families and their loved ones. We also condemn the wide scale indiscriminate violence by settlers against Palestinian civilians following the killing. The attacks reportedly led to the death of one Palestinian man, more than 300 residents injured and four seriously, and the torching of an estimated 30 Palestinian homes and cars,” Price said, calling the actions “completely unacceptable” while extending its deepest sympathy to those affected by this violence.

Price said the U.S. “appreciates” statements from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Joe Biden, calling for a “cessation of vigilante violence.”

Biden administration expects the Israeli government to “ensure full accountability and legal prosecution of those responsible for these attacks, in addition to compensation for the lost homes and property.”

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“Accountability and justice should be pursued with equal rigor in all cases of extremist violence and equal resources dedicated to prevent such attacks and bring those responsible to justice,” Price noted, saying the events “underscore the fragility of the situation in the West Bank, and the urgent need for increased cooperation to prevent further violence.”

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“That is exactly why the United States joined Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan and Egypt in Aqaba. It is imperative that Israel and the Palestinians work together to deescalate tensions and to restore calm,” he continued, adding that “the United States and our regional partners will continue to work with the parties to advance the commitments made in Aqaba and in the meantime, we call on everyone to refrain from actions and rhetoric that further inflame tensions.”





Deputy Assistant Secretary for Israeli and Palestinian Affairs H
Tuesday. Credit: U.S. Office of Palestinian Affairs

National Security Council spokesperson
condemned Israeli settler violence, sayir
with the statements from President Herz

Netanyahu, that citizens cannot take the law into their own hands. What happened was totally unacceptable, something that we've heard loud and clear from our Israeli partners.

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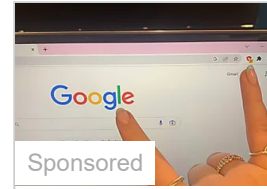


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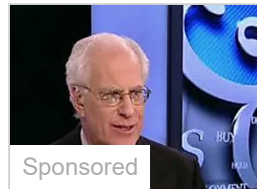
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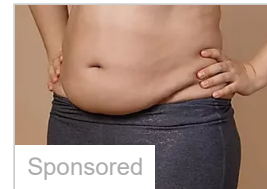


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