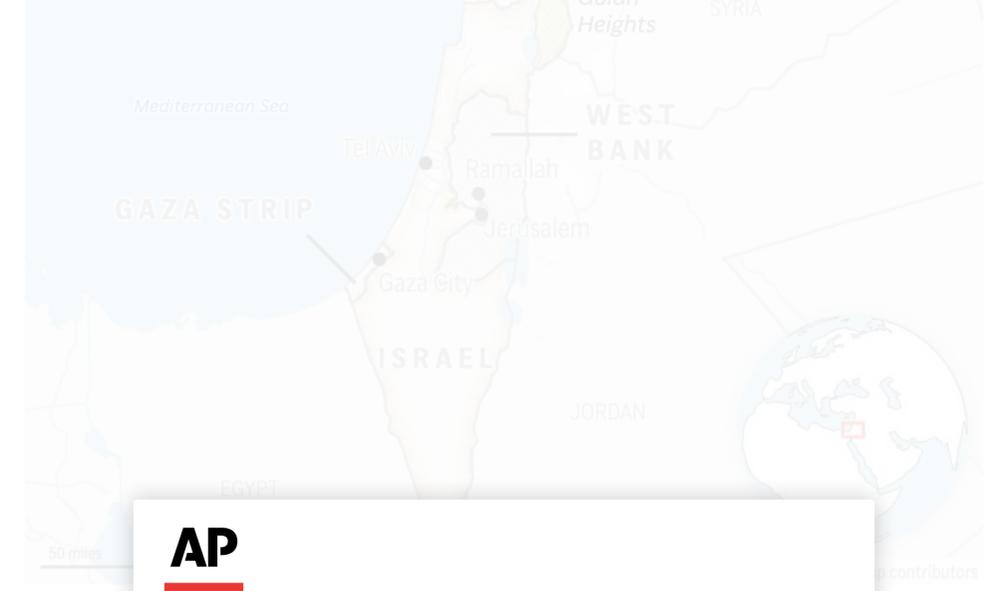


Israeli settlers smash cars and set fires in attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank



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RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Israeli settlers smashed cars and set fires in attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank on Sunday, who were also reported injured.

The violence came as Israel's government presses ahead with [new settlements](#) in the occupied West Bank. Attacks by settlers have intensified alongside a broader surge in violence since the Iran war started.

Israel's military said it responded to Israeli civilians carrying out "arson against structures and property, as well as engaging in disturbances in the area," but did not report any arrests or indicate whether investigations were opened.

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Wafa reported attacks in the villages of Silat al Dahr and Fandaqumiya, both near Jenin; in Jalud and Salfit, both south of Nablus; and in the agricultural regions Masafer Yatta and the Jordan Valley. Homes and cars were set ablaze, Palestinians were pepper-sprayed and at least five people were wounded in the overnight assaults, which took place during the Eid al-Fitr holiday marking the end of Ramadan, the agency said.

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The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported 25 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli settlers and soldiers this year as of March 15. The Palestinian Authority has also documented a series of arson attacks, including on mosques, across the territory.

The rampage came one day after an 18-year-old settler was killed in a collision with a Palestinian vehicle in an area near two of the villages attacked. Police said they were investigating the settlers' claims that the collision was deliberate.

SAM METZ

Metz covers Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and points beyond for The Associated Press.



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