

By continuing to use this website, you are agreeing to our [terms](#).

ACCEPT

Reject

International
PALESTINE

News

Resources

Issues

Get Involved

About Us

Donate

Join

More ▾

Defense for Children
International
PALESTINE

NEWS

News Alerts

Features

Videos

RESOURCES

Essential Statistics

Reports

GET INVOLVED

Join

Donate

Campaigns

Share

ISSUES

Overview

Fatalities and Injuries

Settler Violence

Military Detention

Juvenile Justice

Child Recruitment

Right to a Childhood

ABOUT US

Stories

Who We Are

How We Work

Leadership

DCI Middle East and North Africa

Frequently Asked Questions

Jobs and Internships

Annual Reports

In the Press

Contact

JOIN OUR MOVEMENT

Sign Up

Join with Twitter

11-year-old Maryam and her three-year-old brother Ahmad were tied to a tree by Israeli settlers near Nablus last month. (Photo: Courtesy of the Shehadeh family)

Ramallah, May 8, 2025—Israeli settlers attacked young Palestinian children and tied them to an olive tree in the northern occupied West Bank in April.

Maryam Omar Rebhi Shehadeh, 10, her siblings, and two cousins were attacked by Israeli settlers around 5:30 p.m. on April 19 in the Al-Dhubat neighborhood of Beit Furik, a Palestinian town southeast of Nablus in the northern occupied West Bank, according to documentation collected by Defense for Children International – Palestine. Maryam was playing behind her home with the other children, located about 500 meters (1,640 feet) from the Itamar settlement wall, when an Israeli settler emerged from nearby olive trees. The settler covered Maryam’s mouth with one hand and grabbed her neck with the other, pulling her away. A second settler, armed with a knife, threatened Maryam’s cousins and threw stones at them, causing them to run away. Maryam’s three-year-old brother Ahmad tried to help her, following her as the settlers dragged her away. The settlers then dragged Maryam and Ahmad about 200 meters (656 feet) away and bound them to an olive tree with rope before driving away on a quad bike.

“Israeli settlers almost never face any consequences for attacking Palestinians, including children,” said Ayed Abu Eqtaish, accountability program director at DCIP. “Palestinian children like Maryam and Ahmad who grow up close to Israeli settlements are far more likely to face violence at the hands of Israeli settlers who act with complete impunity.”

“Five minutes later, my father, uncles, and villagers arrived to find us tied up,” Maryam told DCIP. “They quickly untied us and began searching for the settlers who had fled. We were taken home, but I was overwhelmed with fear from the kidnapping attempt, leaving me feeling insecure in our area. My younger brother Ahmad also showed signs of distress.”

Maryam’s brother, three-year-old Ahmad. (Photo: Courtesy of the Shehadeh family)

Israeli settlers frequently carry out attacks against Palestinians, including children, across the occupied West Bank. These attacks take place in the context of Israel’s longstanding policy of settlement expansion and forced displacement of the Palestinian population, which violate international law and amount to war crimes.

Israel’s settlement enterprises, illegally erected on stolen Palestinian land, are maintained not only by the state of Israel but also by multinational corporations and private businesses. The UN Human Rights Council has **identified** 112 companies complicit in settlement activities, including global brands such as Airbnb, Booking.com, JCB, and Caterpillar. These companies, as well as settler-run businesses like wineries and agricultural plantations, all profit from the theft of Palestinian land and continued violence against the Palestinian people, sustaining Israel’s illegal settlement enterprise.

The 2024 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) found that Israel’s settlement project constitutes a grave breach of international law, amounting to de facto annexation. The ICJ confirmed that all states are obligated to neither recognize, nor support Israel’s unlawful settlement regime and must cease all trade or assistance that contributes to its maintenance. Despite efforts by the EU and grassroots movements to label settlement goods, governments, particularly the United States, continue to enable this trade.

 **FILED UNDER:**

News | **Settler and Soldier Violence**

Related Content

More related content ›



April 17, 2025

Settler and Soldier Violence

Israeli forces kill Palestinian child with expanding bullet in Jalazone refugee camp raid



April 11, 2025

Fatalities and Injuries

Israeli settler deliberately hits 16-year-old Palestinian boy with car amid escalating settler violence



April 10, 2025

Settler and Soldier Violence

Israeli forces shoot dead 14-year-old Palestinian-American boy near Ramallah

© 2025 Defense for Children Palestine
All rights reserved.
Created with [NationBuilder](#) | Built by [Tectonica](#)
We're in Beta mode. It might be a little rough around the edges as we take some time to get the website exactly right.

[Sitemap](#) | [Contact](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Terms](#)