

US calls for Israeli accountability on settler violence, slams Eli attack

The US expects “accountability and legal prosecution” in response to settler violence across the West Bank.

The United States called for Israel to ensure accountability for the settler rampage against Palestinians, condemned the terror attack at a West Bank gas station and slammed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s announcement that he planned to build 1,000 new homes in the Eli settlement.

“Accountability and justice should be pursued with equal rigor in all cases of extremist violence,” US State Department deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters in Washington on Wednesday after a violent three days in the West Bank, sparked by an IDF arrest raid in Jenin on Monday during which five Palestinians were killed.

That was followed by a Palestinian terror attack against a gas station near the Eli settlement that claimed four Israelis’ lives on Tuesday. Settlers overnight attacked the nearby Palestinian town of Turmus Ayya setting homes and cars ablaze. One Palestinian man was killed during the violence.

“We strongly condemn yesterday’s terror attack” outside Eli, Patel said, adding that there is “no justification for terrorism.”

Overall, he said, “We are deeply concerned by the rising levels of violence in the West Bank in recent months.”

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