

















**We appeal as human
beings to human
beings: remember
your humanity and
forget the rest**

LET QUSRA LIVE IN PEACE

LET PALESTINE LIVE IN PEACE

MAY ALL WORK FOR PEACE

Palestinians forced from homes in West Bank amid siege by settlers

Guardian 10/8/26

Emma Graham-Harrison
Jerusalem

Israeli troops forced two Palestinian families to leave their besieged homes in the West Bank yesterday, the day after a top Israeli commander promised he would end a violent settler campaign to drive them out.

Israeli soldiers also took over eight homes in Qusra, telling Abdul Azim, the village's mayor, that the buildings were needed for a days-long operation to remove the settlers. They later relinquished six of the homes. Settlers still roamed the village yesterday.

The Palestinians' ordeal began on Sunday when Israeli settlers and

entrance to three homes on the edge of the village. They severed water and electricity supplies and prevented an ambulance from reaching a sick toddler.

Amid mounting international pressure over the siege, Maj Gen Avi Bluth, who commands all the Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank, visited Qusra on Wednesday to meet the trapped Palestinians and committed to "evacuate" the settlers.

Bluth's troops later removed the tent but left the militants, their bedding and other equipment. Soldiers retreated after a failed attempt to drive out the Israeli settler group with riot control techniques. The siege continued into a fifth day yesterday, with the impact on the village only



Qusai Ridi, one of the besieged Palestinians, said: "The army arrived at around 10am and asked us to evacuate the houses because of a military operation in the area that would last for three days. We refused to leave. The army then moved us all into one house."

Ridi was allowed to return home in the afternoon, where he found Israeli soldiers had damaged a security camera system and stolen some equipment. They were continuing to occupy the home of his neighbour Yousef Hassan, who was staying with Ridi.

Settlers were still patrolling outside in the area where the 28-year-old Amir Moatasem Odeh was killed by a settler in March. Another attacker stabbed his father. No one has been arrested over the murder and assault.

"I do not trust that the army will evacuate the settlers," Ridi said. "But I sincerely hope they do."

Ridi's brother is a US citizen. Mike Huckabee, the US ambassador to Israel, who is generally supportive of Israel's settlement project, described the siege of Qusra as a "horrific act of terror" carried out by Israeli settlers.



























*Thanks to all who came to the vigil and to all
who passed by and expressed their support.*