

Trump lifts sanctions on violent settlers as Israelis attack West Bank towns

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Israeli settlers attack Palestinian towns in the occupied West Bank on January 20, 2025.

Washington, January 21 (RHC)-- U.S. President Donald Trump has canceled an executive order that slapped sanctions on extremist Israeli settlers involved in violent attacks against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

On Monday, Trump revoked February 2024's Executive Order 14115, which was signed by his predecessor Joe Biden to authorize the imposition of sanctions "on Persons Undermining Peace, Security, and Stability in the West Bank," the White House announced.

Biden's executive order designated 17 far-right Israeli settlers and 16 entities, blocking them from accessing all US property, assets and the American financial system.

Trump's move, which is expected to intensify attacks against Palestinians, came hours after armed Israeli settlers, shielded by the occupation troops, went on a rampage in several West Bank areas.

They torched Palestinian homes and shops in the villages of al-Funduq, Jinsafut, and Masafer Yatta, and vandalized vehicles near the town of Dura and the Fawwar refugee camp, calling for the murder and the forced displacement of Palestinian people.

Settler violence has escalated significantly since October 7, 2023, when Israel unleashed a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. The usurping regime failed to achieve its declared objectives of freeing captives and eliminating the Hamas resistance group despite killing more than 47,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, in Gaza.

Israel was forced to agree to a Gaza ceasefire, which took effect on Sunday morning, accepting Hamas' longstanding negotiation terms.

Far-right Israelis rejected the truce deal, insisting instead that the bloody onslaught on Gaza must continue.

UN rights office raises alarm at settler violence

Additionally on Monday, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Palestine said it was "alarmed" by a new wave of violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers and forces in the occupied West Bank following the Gaza ceasefire.

In a statement, it said the settler violence was accompanied by reinforced Israeli restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement.

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