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Israeli Settlers Accused of Fatal Beating in West Bank

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Violence in the occupied West Bank has escalated sharply, with the Palestinian health ministry reporting that a 23-year-old Palestinian American, Saif al-Din Kamel Abdul Karim Musallat, was allegedly beaten to death by Israeli settlers in Sinjal, north of Ramallah, on Friday. The incident marks another grim chapter in the rising tide of conflict in the region, where tensions have boiled over since the onset of the Gaza war in October 2023.

According to a spokesman for the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Health, Musallat died after sustaining injuries in a suspected settler assault; relatives said Israeli forces delayed

access to medical care for several hours. “The young man was injured and remained so for four hours. The army prevented us from reaching him and did not allow us to take him away,” said Abdul Samad Abdul Aziz, a resident of the nearby village of al-Mazraa al-Sharqiya, in an interview with AFP. He added, “When we finally managed to reach him, he was taking his last breath.”

The Israeli military, in a statement, described the incident as part of a broader clash between Palestinians and Israelis near Sinjil. It claimed the unrest began when rocks were thrown at Israeli civilians, resulting in two minor injuries. The military reported a “violent confrontation” involving vandalism of Palestinian property, arson, physical clashes, and further rock-throwing. Israeli forces, alongside police and border police, were deployed to the scene, employing “riot dispersal means” to quell the unrest. The military acknowledged reports of a Palestinian civilian’s death and stated that the matter is under investigation.

The incident follows a pattern of escalating violence in the West Bank, where clashes have become more frequent. Only days earlier, AFP reported clashes in Sinjil between Palestinian residents and settlers during a protest against settler incursions into farmland. The construction of a high fence by Israeli authorities, severing parts of Sinjil from the major Road 60, has further inflamed tensions, restricting Palestinian access and movement.

Since the Gaza conflict erupted, triggered by Hamas’s attack on Israel in October 2023, the West Bank has seen a dramatic surge in violence. Palestinian health ministry data indicates that at least 950 Palestinians, including civilians and members of armed groups, have been killed by Israeli troops or settlers. Israeli official figures indicate that around 35–36 Israelis, including civilians and members of the security forces, have been killed in Palestinian attacks or during military operations in the West Bank since October 2023.

The cycle of violence shows no signs of abating, with both sides entrenched in a struggle that continues to claim lives and deepen divisions.

The events in Sinjil underscore the volatile situation in the West Bank, where grievances over land, security, and sovereignty fuel an increasingly combustible conflict.

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