

West Bank: Masked Israeli Settlers Assault French Mayor, Attack Diplomats

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French mayor Bernard Boudot on the ground beside a diplomatic vehicle following an Israeli settler attack in Taybeh, in the occupied West Bank, on October 17, 2026. (Photo: Video grab)

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Staff

Israeli settlers attacked European diplomats and Palestinian olive pickers as a Palestinian commission documented 40 assaults across the West Bank.

Key Developments

- Masked Israeli settlers attacked a European diplomatic delegation and Palestinian olive pickers in Taybeh.
- Belgium condemned the assault, reported that a French mayor was attacked and pledged to continue pressing for EU sanctions.
- Palestinian monitors documented 40 attacks by Israeli occupation forces and settlers within 12 hours.

Masked Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian olive pickers and a visiting European diplomatic delegation in Taybeh on Saturday, as assaults on farmers, their land and their harvest spread across the occupied West Bank.

The delegation included French, Belgian and Polish representatives, alongside Catholic representatives and French local officials.

Taybeh Mayor Suleiman Khourieh told Anadolu that the attack followed an official ceremony marking a twinning agreement between Taybeh and the French town of Saint-Pierre.

The ceremony was attended by the French and Belgian consuls, a Polish representative and Saint-Pierre Mayor Christian Ravain.

Settlers subsequently attacked the delegation and Palestinians picking olives in the western part of Taybeh, injuring several residents and smashing a window of a Belgian diplomatic vehicle, Khourieh said.

Israeli Army Radio, citing witnesses and footage, also reported that settlers threw stones at a diplomatic vehicle.

It identified a delegation member shown lying on the ground beside the vehicle as Bernard Boudot, mayor of Aulnoy-lez-Valenciennes in northern France.

Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot confirmed that a French mayor had been assaulted and a Belgian vehicle damaged.

“I condemn in the strongest terms the attack by masked settlers in Taybeh, in the occupied West Bank, against Palestinians, our Consul General, French and Polish diplomats as well as catholic representatives. A French mayor was assaulted and a Belgian vehicle damaged. Our team is safe,” he said.

Khourieh described the attack as “a flagrant violation of the sanctity of diplomatic and humanitarian work” and part of continuing restrictions on Palestinian farmers.

Belgium: End the Impunity

Prevot stressed that Palestinians face such violence daily, while journalists and diplomats are also being targeted.

“Harvesting olives, reporting the news or carrying out diplomatic duties should never put anyone at risk of attack,” he wrote on X.

He called on Israel, as the occupying power, to protect Palestinians, guarantee the safety of diplomats and journalists, and bring those responsible to justice.

“Impunity for violent settlers must end,” he said.

Belgium would continue pressing for European Union sanctions against perpetrators and those supporting them, Prevot added.

He linked the violence to Israeli settlement policy, reiterating Belgium’s opposition to settlement expansion and attempts to forcibly displace Palestinians.

“The occupation of the Palestinian territory must end,” he said.

Forty Attacks in Twelve Hours

The Taybeh assault took place during a wider wave of attacks on the olive harvest.

The Palestinian Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission documented 40 attacks by Israeli occupation forces and settlers between 6 am and 6 pm on Saturday, according to Quds News Network.

The incidents spanned the governorates of Nablus, Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Salfit, Jenin, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Hebron. They included live fire, beatings, arrests, expulsions from farmland, theft of olives and agricultural equipment, and destruction of trees.

The commission reported live-fire injuries in Aqraba, south of Nablus, and Ma’in in Masafer Yatta, south of Hebron. Palestinians also suffered tear gas inhalation in Ma’in.

Two farmers were beaten in Deir Dibwan, two young men were injured in Shibteen, and additional injuries, bruising and fainting were recorded as farmers were pursued in Beit Furik.

Israeli occupation forces detained five people during olive picking: three in Shibteen, one near Jaba and another in Battir.

In Deir Jarir, settlers attacked olive pickers and opened fire to force them from their land. Israeli forces fired tear gas in Abu Falah and opened fire toward farmers in Deir Ammar, the commission said.

Near Ein Samia, in Kafr Malik, land was bulldozed and olive trees uprooted. Farmers also faced access restrictions in Burqa, Rantis and Silwad.

Across the Nablus governorate, farmers were expelled and olives and agricultural equipment stolen in Burin, Al-Lubban Al-Sharqiya, Yatma, Beit Imrin, Beit Dajan and Duma. Settlers cut down dozens of olive trees in the Beit Furik plain.

In the area between Jamma'in, Marda and Yasuf, settlers attacked farmers and stole two agricultural tractors and olive-harvesting equipment. The commission also reported tear gas and gunfire as farmers were forced to leave.

The commission warned that the attacks target the entire harvest process, from farmers and trees to equipment and access roads, threatening a vital source of income for Palestinian families.

It called for protection for farmers, safe and sustained access to their land, and accountability for settlers and the forces protecting them.

(PC, Anadolu, QNN)