

Seventeen Gaza Settlements Evacuated

Thursday, August 18, 2005

FOX NEWS



KFAR DAROM, Gaza Strip — Israeli security forces carried out a second day of forced evacuations on Thursday, dragging hard-line protesters out of synagogues in Neve Dekalim and Kfar Darom, two settlements where opposition to the Gaza withdrawal plan was fiercest.

By the close of the day, 14,000 unarmed forces had cleared those two settlements as well as 15 others, making solid progress in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to cede Gaza to the Palestinians.

At Kfar Darom, dozens of protesters sequestered themselves behind razor-wire on the synagogue roof, at first singing and waving flags, then attacking soldiers below with their arsenal of caustic liquids and objects, including paint-filled lightbulbs. Police and soldiers stripped off their clothes after being doused. Comrades poured water on their heads and torsos to wash them.

At Neve Dekalim, troops wrestled for hours against some 1,500 extremists making their last stand inside Gaza's largest synagogue. Protesters lay on the floor with their arms linked, kicking against the Israeli forces while supporters held their shoulders in a tug-of-war.

For years, 8,500 Israelis lived among Gaza's 1.3 million Palestinians in perpetual tension and frequently lethal violence.

At least 41 police and soldiers and 17 civilians were injured during Thursday's raids on six settlements, including Neve Dekalim and Kfar Darom, police said. In Kfar Darom, about 50 people were arrested.

The some 14,000 police and soldiers taking part in the evacuation were trained to withstand abuse and be considerate of the settler's rage and sorrow at being ripped from their homes.

One man collapsed in the sand in tears after soldiers came to evacuate him. "This is the land of Israel, people, this is the land of Israel," he shouted. "I just want to stay here."

1. In simplest form and expressed as a ratio between unarmed forces and extremists in simplest form?
2. How many less Israelis lived among Palestinians in tension and violence?
3. Approximately how many were injured during Thursday's raids on six settlements?
4. How many more were injured in relation to those arrested?
5. In paragraph form, explain in your own words, what is happening in the Gaza strip.
6. What new information have you learned in this edition of The Daughtry Times?