

## MTG's Latest Lie: Israelis Persecuting Christians in a City They Can't Enter

### THE LIE

Jews are "taking" Christian homes in **Bethlehem** as part of a broader campaign of Israeli persecution against Christians.

### THE TRUTH

No Jews are seizing homes in Bethlehem; Christians face persecution from the Islamist Palestinian Authority, not Israel.

### BACKGROUND

- On February 16, 2026, former Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene wrote an X post accusing Jewish "settlers" of "taking" Christian homes in Bethlehem and urging American Christians to "speak out" about the "Christian persecution happening there." ([X](#))

### TRUTH EXPLAINED

- Bethlehem is in **Area A**, fully controlled by the **Palestinian Authority (PA)**. It has **no Jewish residents** and Israelis are legally barred **from entering**. Jews are not "taking" any homes there. ([Christians for Israel International](#))
- Christians make up roughly **11% of Bethlehem's population**, down from 60% in 1990 after the PA redrew municipal boundaries to ensure a Muslim majority. ([JCPA](#)), ([JCFA](#))
- Bethlehem's mayor is traditionally Christian, but the city answers to a **Muslim governorate** and operates under **Sharia law**, as enshrined in the Palestinian Constitution. ([Palestine News Network](#)), ([Palestinian Constitution](#))
- Christians under PA rule face **intimidation, assaults, land theft, church vandalism and arson, economic boycotts, kidnapping, and extortion**, with PA officials often complicit or inactive. ([JCPA](#)), ([JCFA](#)), ([Jerusalem Post](#))
- It is very risky for Christians to speak publicly about persecution by Muslims; reporting abuse can provoke retaliation and is often suppressed to protect the PA's international image and foreign aid flows. ([Christian Persecution Review](#)), ([ME Forum](#)), ([JPost](#)), ([Mihilard](#))
- Documented incidents include **Palestinian attacks on churches**, harassment of Christian women, gunfire at Christian-owned businesses, and violent assaults on Christian landowners. ([ME Forum](#)), ([JCPA](#)), ([JCFA](#))
- If Israel were truly persecuting Christians, the holy sites under its full sovereignty and control would be the first to suffer. Yet the **Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Mount of Olives, and the Mount of Beatitudes** — every one of them administered and protected by the Israeli government — remain open and accessible to Christian pilgrims from around the world.
- Surveys show **~84% of Christians report being satisfied with life in Israel**, exposing Greene's narrative as political theater that distracts from the real culprit: **Islamist rule under the PA**. ([Central Bureau of Statistics](#))

### QUOTES

"The attacks by Muslims on Christians are often ignored by the international community and media, who seem to speak out only when they can find a way to blame Israel." — Muslim journalist Khaled Abu Toameh

### Takeaway

Christians are being persecuted in Bethlehem — but not by Israel. Israel has no presence there. Bethlehem is governed entirely by the Palestinian Authority, whose Islamist leadership is the documented source of Christian suffering. By

blaming Jewish "settlers" who don't exist in a city Israelis cannot legally enter, Greene distracts from the real culprits and turns genuine Christian pain into an anti-Israel talking point.