

Tensions rise in West Bank city

by UPI

HEBRON, West Bank -- Observers in the West Bank town of Hebron say tensions and confrontations are rising between the Palestinian population and Jewish settlers. The city, which was split into Israeli- and Palestinian- controlled sections by a 1996 accord, is now host to 150,000 Arabs and about 700 Jewish settlers, The Washington Post reported Thursday. The Temporary International Presence in Hebron, which was put in place after the 1996 deal was reached, says violence is rising between nationalist factions of Arabs and Israelis in the city. The observer group said that during a three-month period ending Jan. 31, a total 35 complaints of settler violence and harassment were received, and that number grew to 71 cases over the course of the following three months. "The pattern you see is that you have settlement and then violence around it," said Mats Lignell, a former Swedish soldier with the observer mission. "And you see this project inching forward."

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Tensions rise in West Bank city by UPI