Israeli Occupation Policies

**Killings & Injuries**

- Figures for deaths and injuries differ by source. According to the PCBS, since the 1948 Nakba up to 5 May 2021, over 100,000 Palestinians and Arabs were killed (inside and outside Palestine) (PCBS, Press Release on the 73rd Annual Commemoration of the Palestinian Nakba, 10 May 2021).

- The following graph shows the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers/civilians since the outbreak of the first Intifada in Dec. 1987 as monitored by the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem.

- According to OCHA, 136 Palestinians had been killed by Israeli forces (WB: 99, GS: 32 Israel: 4) and 3 by settlers in 2022, as of 10 October. Of the total, 35 were minors under the age of 18 (2 girls and 33 boys), and 8 women. On the Israeli side 13 people were killed by Palestinians (WB: 4, Israel: 9): 4 forces, 9 civilians (OCHA, Data on Casualties, 10 October 2022).

- In the same period, 8,321 Palestinians were injured (WB: 8,300, GS: 19, Israel: 2), the vast majority of them by Israeli forces. At least 826 of the total were minors. On the Israeli side 110 people were injured by Palestinians (WB: 86, Israel: 24): 30 forces, 80 settlers and civilians (ibid.).

- Between 2000 and September 2022, 2,220 children were killed as a result of Israeli military or settler violence, including 547 aged 0-8 years. The majority (1,709) was killed in Gaza. These figures do not include children involved in hostilities. In 2022, 22 children were killed as of September (for details and updates see: https://www.dci-palestine.org/child_fatalities_statistics).
Raid, Arrests, Imprisonment & Forced Transfer

- Israeli authorities have detained approx. 1 million Palestinians since the state of Israel was established in 1948 and over 650,000 Palestinians since 1967 (Addameer).
- Since 1967, almost 1 million Palestinians have been arrested by Israel, including 17,000 females and 50,000 children, and over 54,000 administrative detention orders were issued (Commission on Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, quoted in Anadolu Agency, 5 June 2021). 9,500 of them since 2015 alone (Palestinian Prisoner’s Society).
- As of 18 October, Israel had detained some 5,300 Palestinians in 2022, including 620 children and 111 women. Of the total, 2,353 were Jerusalemites and 1,610 were held in administrative detention (Palestinian Prisoner’s Society).
- In the first nine months of 2022, Israel has issued over 1,610 administrative detention orders for Palestinians. (www.addameer.org/) and conducted 2,481 arrest operations in the West Bank (https://www.ochaopt.org/poc/13-26-september-2022).
- Palestinian political prisoners (called “security prisoners” by Israel) are held in 18 prisons (Damon, Hadarim, HaSharon, Rimonim, Ayalon, Nitzan, Neve Tirza, Ramleh, Ashqelon, Gilboa, Shatta, Megiddo, Ofer, Ayala, Ohalei Kedar, Eshel, Ketziot/Negev, Nafha and Ramon), 3 detention centers (Salem, Huwwara, and Gush Etzion), and 4 interrogation centers (Haifa, Petah Tikva, Ashkelon, and Al-Moskobiya in Jerusalem). In addition, there is a military court at Ofer (Addameer).
- Children in detention: While an Israeli child cannot be given a custodial sentence until reaching the age of 14 under civilian law, Israeli forces can send Palestinian children to prison at the age of 12 under military law. According to DCI, over 8,000 Palestinian children have been detained and prosecuted in an Israeli military detention system since 2000, on average 500-700 each year. As of June 2022, 137 children aged 12-17 were imprisoned, including 1 girl and 5 in administrative detention (DCI Palestine, https://www.dci-palestine.org/children_in_israeli_detention).
- Since 1967 and as of September 2022, 230 Palestinians have died in Israeli jails, 2 of them in 2022: former prisoner Ihab Al-Kilani from Nablus died on 16 May of cancer resulting from medical negligence at the time of his detention, and Saadia Farajallah, 68, from Idna near Hebron, who died on 2 July in Damon (Palestinian Prisoners Club).
- Although the Israeli High Court outlawed the use of arbitrary torture as an interrogation method on 6 September 1999, it is still practiced, including isolation, sleep deprivation, physical & sexual assault, stress positions, long interrogation, threats, prevention of family and lawyers’ visits. Since 2001, over 1,300 complaints filed by torture victims were submitted to the Justice Ministry, but only two were investigated and none led to an indictment (PCATI, Torture in Israel 2021, Situation Report, 2021).

Expropriation & Destruction of Land and Property

- In the course of the 1948 Nakba, Israel expropriated an estimated 17,178,000 dunums (1,000 dunums=1 km²) of land from Palestinians and between 1950 and 1966, another 700,000 dunums from those Palestinians who remained within the territory of the new state. After the 1967 War, Israel expropriated 849,000 dunums of Palestinian land, over 400,000 dunums of which belonged to Palestinians who had been displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the war (Badil, Survey of Palestinian Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (2010-2012), Vol. VII, 2012).
- Israel controls over 85% of the land of historic Palestine (compared to 6.2% during the British Mandate) (PCBS, Press Release, 73rd Annual Commemoration of the Palestinian Nakba, 10 May 2021).
During 2021, Israel has confiscated 25,365 dunums of Palestinian land in the West Bank, destroyed 2,931 dunums (mostly by soaking with sewage or water, less so by bulldozing, vandalizing, spraying chemicals and arson) and 17,755 trees, and demolished 93 water wells and tanks (*Israeli Violations against Some Natural Resources During 2021,* Land Research Center, February 2022).

A database on all Israeli laws and bills that promote annexation of the occupied West Bank to Israel can be found here: https://www.yesh-din.org/en/legislation/.

### Residency, Closures & Movement Restrictions

In June 1967, right after the occupation of the Palestinian territories, Israel conducted a census in which only Palestinians who were then present in the OPT were registered as legal residents in the population registry and subsequently received ID cards. Ever since, Israel has retained full control of the registry despite the fact that the Oslo Accords required its transfer - along with other civil matters - to the PA for Areas A and B. Persons not listed in the registry can only legally join their families and reside in the West Bank upon Israel’s approval for family unification, which, however, is not a vested right but a “benevolent” act of the Israeli authorities. Since 1967, these have cancelled or refused registration, residency, and family unification requests for tens of thousands of Palestinians, mostly on grounds of remaining outside the country for too long (www.hamoked.org/files/2011/114221_eng.pdf).

The PA cannot issue valid ID cards without coordinating with Israel, leaving thousands of Palestinians without documents, including those who brought spouses and children from abroad back to the OPT, those seeking to change their address from Gaza to the West Bank, and those who failed to register by the age of 16. During the 1990s, Israel set a yearly quota for family unification approvals, peaking at around 4,000. In the wake of the Second Intifada in 2000, the unification process was effectively shut down. In 2007, Israel opened the family unification issue as a goodwill gesture to the PA, examining some 50,000 requests and approving 32,000. Between 2010 and 2018, only five applications were approved. As of 2022, there were still hundreds of unresolved applications. Concerned foreign-national spouses of West Bank Palestinians cannot open a bank account or work legally. If they leave the country, they might not be allowed to return. In January 2022, Israel promised to "legalize" the status of 9,500 undocumented Palestinians and foreigners living in the OPT.
Since March 1993, a general closure is imposed on Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip (WBGS), denying them entrance to Israel and Jerusalem, free movement within the West Bank, and access to places of worship, work, and medical, educational and other services. Those who enter ‘illegally’ or assist others to do so risk imprisonment and penalties. Israel’s closure policy disregards international law, according to which East Jerusalem is an integral part of the West Bank, and the Oslo Accords, which view the Palestinian territory as one territorial unit.

In order to move between the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem or to travel abroad, most Palestinians must obtain permits from Israel, which are only valid for certain periods, times, purposes, and individuals and can be canceled at any moment. Especially restricted is access to settler roads, areas near or controlled by settlements, and to land and other natural resources. In some West Bank areas, Palestinians must even obtain special ‘residency’ permits in order to remain in their homes and/or to access their land.

House Demolitions  (For home demolitions in Jerusalem see Chapter 14)

During the 1948 Nakba, Israel destroyed some 52,000 Palestinian homes and structures and another over 56,500 since 1967 in the OPT (https://icahd.org/).

Between 2009 and mid-October 2022, Israel has destroyed 8,867 Palestinian structures in the West Bank (for details on demolitions in Jerusalem – see chapter 14.6), displacing over 13,000 people and affecting the livelihoods of 160,784 people. Of the total destroyed structures, 1,569 were donor-funded, 1,725 were located in Jerusalem, 6,973 were located in Area C and 169 in Areas A and B (OCHA, Data on Demolition & Displacement in the West Bank, 14 October 2022).

“Types” of demolitions (cases since 1967 in OPT):

- Punitive: collective punishment for the actions (e.g., suicide attacks) of people associated with the houses. Ceased in 2005 but resumed in 2014. (1,540)
- Administrative: for lack of building permits. Mainly in Area C and Jerusalem, where it is almost impossible to get permits, but also in Area B, if a house is close to an army base or settler road. (12,043)
- Land-clearing operations/military: in the course of military operations (arrests, raids, etc.). (34,918)
- Undefined: (6,130)

In 2021 alone (as of 14 October), Israel had destroyed 697 structures in the West Bank, displacing 836 people and affecting over 25,500 others. Of the total, 105 structures were donor-funded, 558 located in Area C, 111 in Jerusalem, 241 were residential units and 229 agricultural structures (OCHA, Data on Demolition and Displacement in the West Bank, 14 October 2022).

According to B’Tselem, from 2006 to 31 August 2022, Israel demolished at least 4,803 Palestinian units in the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem) for lacking permits, leaving 8,115 people (4,092 of them minors) homeless. Another 280 units were destroyed as punishment, leaving 1,358 people homeless, and 1,891 for “military purposes”, leaving 13,444 homeless. In the first 8 months of 2022, 487 housing units were destroyed in the West Bank, including 98 in Jerusalem and 96.5% of the total for being built “illegally” (https://statistics.btselem.org/en/intro/demolitions).

Recommended Research Sources:

http://www.pchrgaza.org  
http://www.acri.org.il/en  
http://www.badil.org (refugee/residency rights)  
http://www.dci-pal.org (children’s rights)  
http://www.stoptorture.org.il (PCATI)  
http://www.icahd.org (house demolitions)  
https://conquer-and-divide.btselem.org/  
http://www.alhaq.org  
http://www.btselem.org  
http://www.addameer.org (prisoners)  
http://www.hrw.org (Human Rights Watch)  
http://www.ichr.ps (citizens’ rights)  
http://www.ochaopt.org


Save the Children, “Hope Under the Rubble” - The impact of Israel’s home demolition policy on Palestinian children and their families, 2021.