Israeli Occupation Policies

- Killings & Injuries
- Raids, Arrests, Imprisonment & Forced Transfer
- Expropriation & Destruction of Land and Property
- Residency, Closures & Movement Restrictions
- House Demolitions (NB: For home demolitions in Jerusalem see the Chapter 14)

**Killings & Injuries**

- The lives of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) are permanently subject to threats from Israeli occupation policies and practices as well as settler violence. Figures for deaths and injuries differ by source. The following graph shows the number of Palestinians killed by Israelis since the outbreak of the first Intifada in Dec. 1987 as monitored by the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem: In 2017, as of September, 43 Palestinians had been killed by Israelis, 41 of which by Israeli security forces, 2 by civilians. Of the total, 5 were killed in Gaza, 37 in the West Bank, and 1 inside Israel; 13 were minors under the age of 18, one was a woman. On the Israeli side 12 people were killed by Palestinians (all in the OPT): 7 security forces and 5 civilians, one of them a woman.


- According to the PLO Negotiations Affairs Department, 58 Palestinians were killed by Israel during the first nine months of 2017, and 1,024 were injured.

- According to Defense for Children statistics, as of July 2017, a total of 2,022 children aged 12-17 have been killed since the outbreak of the second Intifada in 2000 by Israeli military or settlers, not including those involved in hostilities. Some 77.7% of the total casualties were from Gaza. In 2017, 10 were killed in the first 7 months. (for details and updates see: http://www.dci-palestine.org).

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**Palestinians killed by Israeli forces and civilians since the first Intifada (9 Dec. 1987-Sept. 2017)**

Source: B'Tselem website, http://www.btselem.org/statistics (Fatalities). The above numbers do not include:
- Palestinian citizens of Israel killed by Israeli forces, incl. 13 killed in Oct. 2000.
- Palestinian suicide bombers.
- Palestinians who died due to delays in receiving medical treatment (e.g., by being stopped at checkpoints).

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**Child Fatalities by Age, 2000-2017**

Source: DCI-Palestine.
Raids, Arrests, Imprisonment & Forced Transfer

- Under Israeli occupation, raids and detentions are features of the daily Palestinian life and the fear of imprisonment is omnipresent.
- The Israeli General Prisons’ Administration governs 10 central prisons (Ashqelon, Nafha in the Negev, Beer Sheba, Ramle, Telmond near Hadera, Rimonim, Gelboa, Hadarim, Kfar Yuna, and Shatta near Megiddo) and three military detention camps (Megiddo, Ofer near Ramallah, and Ketziot or ‘Ansar 3’ in the Negev).
- The Israeli Prison Service held, as of end of May 2017, 6,020 Palestinian “security” prisoners (incl. 475 administrative detainees), of which 3,389 were serving a sentence. Of the total, 329 were from Gaza and 331 were minors (3 under 14, 71 14-16, and 257 16-18 years). In addition, 811 prisoners were held for being in Israel illegally.

Source: B’Tselem, August 2017.

- Israeli authorities have detained approx. 1 million Palestinians since the state of Israel was established in 1948. Since the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Intifada (28 Sept. 2000) alone, some 100,000 arrests were recorded by human rights organizations - among them 15,000 minors, 1,500 women and 70 PA officials - as were some 27,000 administrative detention orders (PCBS, Press Release on the Occasion of Palestinian Prisoners’ Day, 17 April 2017).

- Since the most recent wave of political unrest erupted in October 2015, over 10,000 Palestinians have been detained, mostly from Jerusalem, and about one third of them minors (Joint statement by the Palestinian Committee of Prisoners’ Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoner’s Society (PPS), and the PCBS, 15 April 2017).

- While an Israeli child cannot be given a custodial sentence until reaching the age of 14 under civilian law, a Palestinian child can be sent to prison at the age of 12 under military law. In 2016, the average monthly number of Palestinian children (under 18) held in Israeli detention was 375 (up from 220 in 2015), and as of May 2017, 331 minors were detained (DCI Palestine, http://www.dci-pale.org).

- According to the PLO Negotiations Affairs Department’s monitoring, Israeli forces have detained 4,354 Palestinians and conducted 4,737 raids in residential areas during Jan.-Sept. 2017.
The death in prison of Hamas member Yasser Thiab Hamduna, 41, on 25 September 2016, brought the number of such deaths in custody since 1967 to at least 208 (73 of which as a result of torture or injuries sustained during arrest, the remainder due to medical negligence), some 84 of which since the outbreak of the Al-Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (PA Ministry of Prisoners’ Affairs; Addameer).

Although the Israeli High Court outlawed the use of arbitrary torture as an interrogation method on 6 September 1999 (though stopping short of banning it altogether as required by international law), Israel still practices it, including isolation, physical assault, prolonged interrogation sessions, use of collaborators to threaten detainees, threats to family members, prevention of family and lawyers’ visits (B’Tselem & Hamoked, Absolute Prohibition: The Torture and Ill-Treatment of Palestinian Detainees, May 2007).

### Expropriation & Destruction of Land and Property

After the 1948 War, Israel adopted new land laws to facilitate the expropriation of refugee property and its transfer to the state and the Jewish National Fund (JNF). Between 1947-49, an estimated 17,178,000 dunums (1,000 dunums=1 km²) of land were expropriated from Palestinians. Between 1950-1966, 700,000 dunums were expropriated from Palestinians who remained within the territory of the new state. After the 1967 War, Israel expropriated 849,000 dunums (849 km²) of Palestinian land, over 400,000 dunums (400 km²) of which owned by 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).

Since 1967, the Palestinians have lost access to over 60% of West Bank land and two thirds of its grazing land, while over 2.5 million productive trees have been uprooted. In Gaza half of the cultivable area was lost. (UNCTAD, Report on UNCTAD’s Assistance to the Palestinian People, Sept. 2017).

According to ARJ, between 1994 (Oslo I Accord) and 2016, Israel has confiscated 741,245 dunums of Palestinian land (see graph on the right).

Today, Jews control over 85% of the land of historic Palestine (compared to 6.2% during the British Mandate) (PCBS, Special Statistical Bulletin on the 68th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba, May 2017).

Israel retains near exclusive control over Area C, comprising 60% of the West Bank, and effectively prohibits Palestinian construction in over 70% of Area C (areas designated for the use of Israeli settlements or the military). In the remaining 30%, a range of restrictions make obtaining a building permit nearly impossible. Hence, Palestinians can build on only 1% of Area C - most of which is already totally built-up (OCHA, Area C of the West Bank: Key Humanitarian Concerns, Update, August 2014).

The Israeli Civil Administration Blue Line Team has recently ratified over 62,000 dunums as “state land”, which is a necessary step for the allocation of land for settlement expansion or the retroactive “legalization” of unauthorized outposts. Some 52.4% of this land (~32,500 dunums) was in closed military areas (“firing zones”, which cover about 18% of the West Bank), where any construction or development is prohibited (OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin, June 2016).
• According to ARIJ, between 1994 (Oslo I Accord!) and 2016, Israeli forces have uprooted **689,960** Palestinian trees.

• In 2016, the Israeli authorities demolished or seized **300** donor-funded structures provided as humanitarian assistance to Palestinians (estimated value = over €655,000), almost tripling the figure for 2015 (=108), and handed another **100** stop-work, demolition, and eviction orders (OCHA, Occupied Palestinian Territory – Fragmented Lives, Humanitarian Overview 2016, May 2017).

• Between 2009 and July 2017, 53 Palestinian mosques and churches were vandalized in the West Bank and Israel, but only **9** indictments have been filed, only **7** convictions were handed down, and only **8** cases are still under investigation, with the other **45** all closed (Haaretz, 24 Sept. 2017).

• According to the PLO Negotiations Affairs Department, there were **224** incidents of obstruction of places of worship and **596** incidents of assaults on property during Jan.-Sept. 2017.

### Residency, Closures & Movement Restrictions

• Right after the occupation of the Palestinian territories in June 1967, an Israeli census only registered as legal residents in the population registry those Palestinians who were present in the OPT then, providing them subsequently with 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. Thus, all residence issues are still subject to Israeli approval. 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. At the start of the Second Intifada in 2000, Israel stopped processing family unification requests and visitor permits to non-resident family members. According to the PA Ministry of Civil Affairs some 120,000 requests for family unification have since been made (not including the thousands of cases which were pending when the freeze began).

• While the PA issues identification documents to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, it does so only in coordination with Israel, which effectively controls the Palestinian population registry and which has cancelled or refused registration, residency, and family unification requests for over 230,000 Palestinians since 1967, many on grounds of remaining outside for too long (Hamoked).
In March 1993, Israel (under then Prime Minister Rabin) imposed a general closure denying Palestinians from the WBGS entrance to Israel and Jerusalem and free movement within the West Bank. Ever since, tens of thousands of Palestinians are deprived from reaching places of work and worship as well as medical, educational and economic services. Those who enter ‘illegally’ or assist others to do so risk imprisonment and penalties. While Gaza is sealed off from the rest of the world, the closure in the West Bank is maintained in the form of the Separation Barrier and 572 closures (in addition to 110 obstacles in the Israeli-controlled H2 area of Hebron) (OCHA, as of end 2016 - see graph). The 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 WBGS as ‘one territorial unit’, and has had a devastating impact on the Palestinian economy in general.

- In order to move between the West Bank, Gaza, 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 rural West Bank areas, Palestinians must even obtain special ‘residency’ permits in order to remain in their homes.


- Over ten years into the almost total blockade by land, sea and air, which began in mid-2007, UN agencies increasingly warn that Gaza is inching ever closer to humanitarian collapse.

### House Demolitions  (NB: For home demolitions in Jerusalem see the Chapter 14)

- ICAP estimates that since 1967, Israel has destroyed over 48,700 Palestinian homes and structures under different pretexts (see box).

- According to the PLO Negotiations Affairs Department, between Jan.-Sept. 2017, there were 106 home demolitions, 44 house occupations, and 586 property destructions or confiscations.

- In 2016, 875 Palestinian-owned structures were demolished in Area C, 190 in East Jerusalem and 28 in Areas A and B, displacing over 1,600 people and affecting the livelihoods of more than 7,000 people. Nearly 30% of the demolished structures were donor-funded. At the end of 2016, there were over 12,500 outstanding demolition orders against Palestinian-owned structures in Area C. (OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin: Monthly Report, January 2017).

- In 2017, as of 25 October, at least 371 Palestinian structures - 156 of them residential - have been demolished (800 in the West Bank, 200 in East Jerusalem), displacing 588 people, incl. 329 children, and affecting over 6,000 other people (OCHA, West Bank-Online Demolitions Database).
B’Tselem reports that from 2006-Sept. 2017, Israel demolished at least 1,299 Palestinian housing units in the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem) for lacking permits, leaving 5,849 people (2,948 of them minors) homeless. In the first nine months of 2017 alone, 80 housing units were destroyed in the West Bank. Five other homes were destroyed as punitive measure, bringing the total number of punitive demolition since 2006 to 43 (www.btselem.org/planning_and_building/statistics).

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</tbody>
</table>

\* Between 2001-04, 1,115 homes were demolished and 299 sealed; this ceased in 2005 but resumed in 2014.

\*i.e., lacking permits. Source: www.btselem.org – Destruction of Property statistics.

Recommended Research Sources:

http://www.pchrgaza.org http://www.aihaq.org
http://www.badil.org (refugee/residency rights) http://www.addameer.org (prisoners)
http://www.icahd.org (house demolitions) http://www.ochaopt.org


BADIL, Coercive Environments: Israel’s Forcible Transfer of Palestinians in the Occupied Territory, February 2017.


Al-Haq, A Nation under Siege, Ramallah, 1989.

