

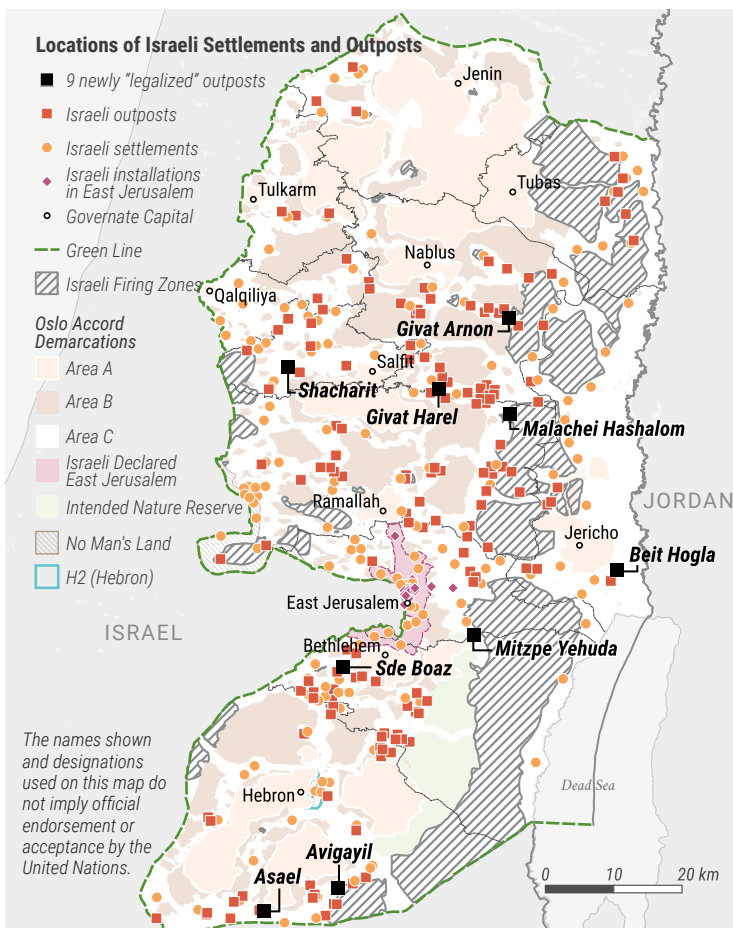
REPORT OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Updates on the advancement of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.**
- ▶ **Reports on the dramatic increase in the intensity, severity and regularity of Israeli settler violence against Palestinians, which is accelerating their displacement from their land.**
- ▶ **Contains details of cases of violence monitored by the United Nations Human Rights Office. This includes accounts from Palestinian women from the Wedadie herding community, describing gender-based violence aimed at degrading and intimidating them and forcing them from their land.**
- ▶ **Updates on demolitions of Palestinian homes, the construction of bypass roads to connect Israeli settlements and outposts, and the ongoing construction of the wall – 85 per cent of which runs inside the West Bank.**

Key conclusions

- 1 The **drastic acceleration**, particularly after 7 October 2023, of **long-standing trends of discrimination, oppression and violence against Palestinians** that accompany Israeli occupation and settlement expansion have taken the West Bank to the **brink of catastrophe**.
- 2 The **establishment and continuing expansion of settlements** in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan amount to the **transfer by Israel of its own civilian population into the territories that it occupies**, which is strictly prohibited under international humanitarian law. **Such transfers amount to a war crime that may engage the individual criminal responsibility of those involved.**
- 3 The ongoing expansion of Israeli settlements involves numerous human rights violations against Palestinians, including their **rights to self-determination, equality and non-discrimination**.
- 4 These violations, which have become more serious over the reporting period, create a coercive environment that **displaces Palestinians from their homes and their lands and that could amount to forcible transfer**.
- 5 The **transfer of wide administrative powers** relating to settlements and land administration from the military authorities to Israeli civilian officials, who are elected and accountable to the population of Israel, could **facilitate the annexation of the West Bank**.
- 6 The **international community has failed, both individually and collectively, to take adequate, feasible and effective measures** to ensure the compliance of Israel with its international obligations.
- 7 To address the current crisis and the wider context of occupation, it is critical for States Members of the United Nations, including the primary duty bearer, Israel, to **find a viable political solution that finally addresses the underlying human rights violations of the Palestinian people**.

ISRAELI SETTLEMENT EXPANSION AND ASSOCIATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN FIGURES



SETTLEMENT EXPANSION

 **700,000**

approximate number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem as of September 2023

 **24,300**

approximate number of advanced or approved housing units within existing Israeli settlements

including approximately **465,000 settlers in the West Bank**, concentrated in Area C, residing in approximately 300 settlements and outposts, and approximately **230,000 settlers in East Jerusalem**, in addition to **3,000** residing within Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem (according to Israeli non-governmental organization *Peace Now*).

including **9,670 housing units in East Jerusalem**.

The size of existing Israeli settlements has **expanded at the highest rate since monitoring began in 2017**.

OUTPOSTS

- ▶ According to data from *Peace Now*, the number of Israeli settler outposts increased to **162**. Outposts can be centred around a single caravan, gradually taking over the larger area around them.
- ▶ An unprecedented **9 outposts were "legalized" by the Israeli Government**, which include 335 housing units spread over 1,100 dunams of land.
- ▶ In the first nine months of 2023, **four of the eight Palestinians killed by Israeli settlers were killed near newly established settlement outposts**.

SETTLER VIOLENCE

1,038

total incidents of settler violence from 1 January to 31 October 2023

203

nearly one-fifth of incidents took place during the period of 7 to 31 October

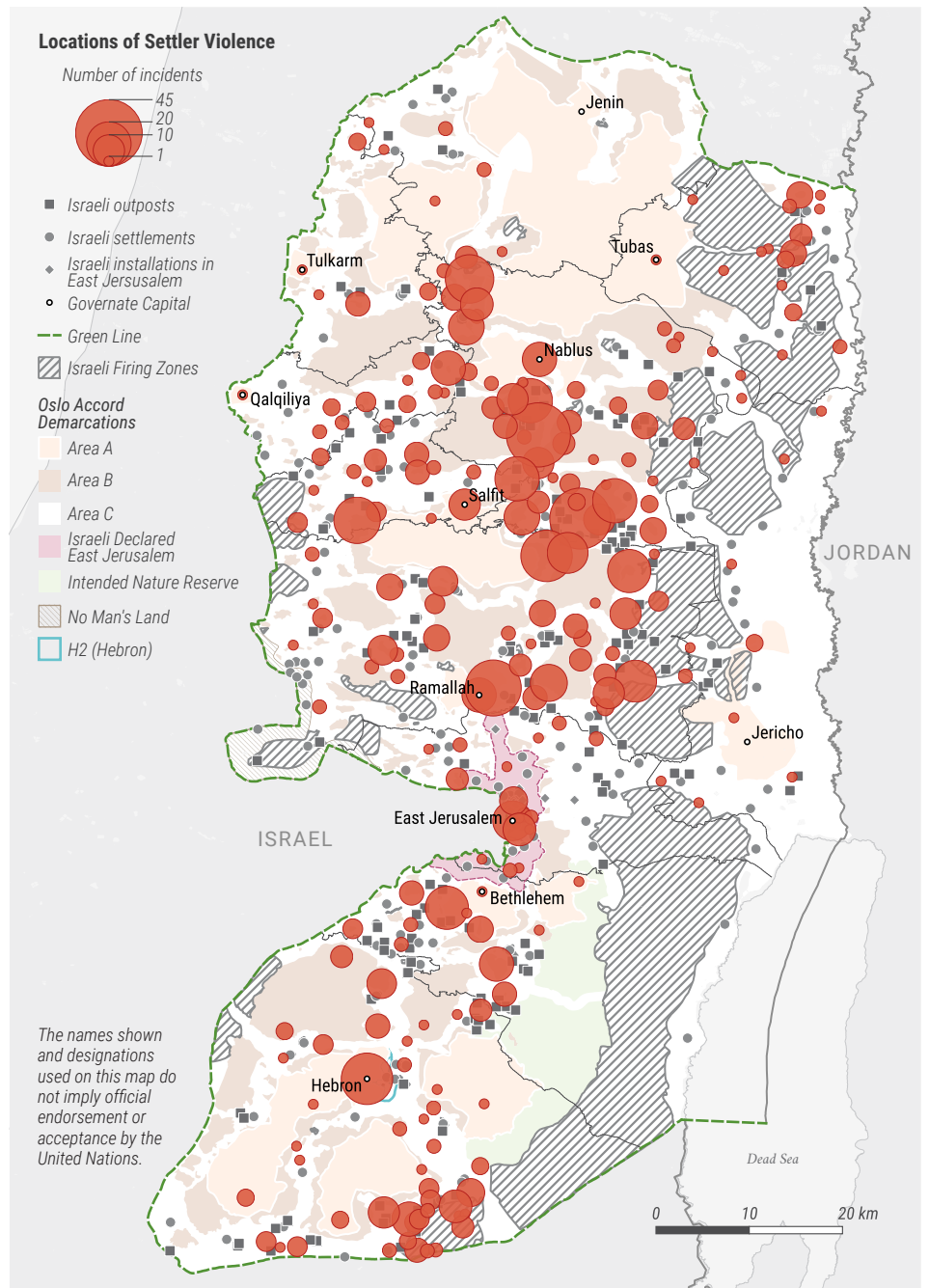
▶ In the first nine months of 2023, an average of three incidents of settler violence occurred each day, totalling 835 incidents – the highest on record. This included intense waves of settler attacks, such as in Huwwarah and Turmus'ayya. That compared to an average of two a day in 2022, totalling 856 incidents, and one a day in 2021, totalling 540 incidents, which was then the highest on record since the United Nations started recording data in 2006.

▶ Between 7 and 31 October 2023, OCHA recorded 203 settler attacks against Palestinians, which increased the daily average to eight. During this period, OHCHR monitored the killing of 8 Palestinians (all males), including one boy, all by the use of firearms by settlers. There were also 142 incidents of damage to Palestinian property. Out of the 203 settler attacks, more than one-third involved threats with firearms, including shooting.

▶ Almost half of all incidents between 7 and 31 October involved Israeli forces escorting or actively supporting Israeli settlers while carrying out attacks.

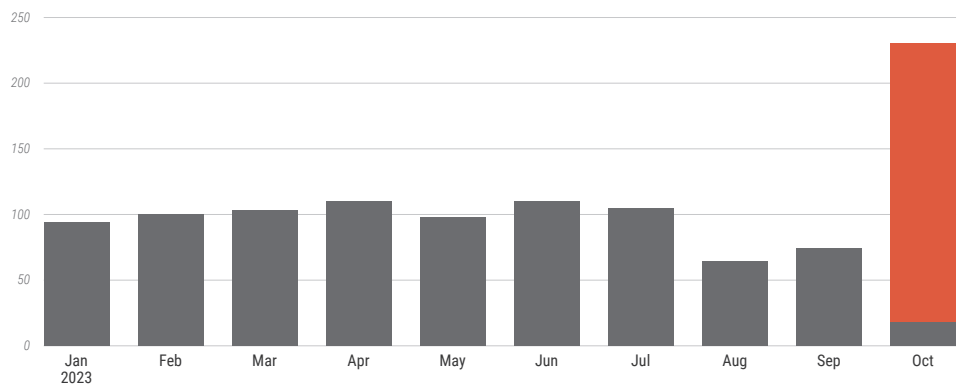
▶ Palestinian herding communities in the West Bank remain particularly vulnerable to forced displacement. A total of 1,105 people from 28 Palestinian herding communities – about 12% of the herding community's population – were displaced from their residences between January 2022 and the beginning of September 2023, citing settler violence and prevention of access to grazing land by settlers as the primary reason.

▶ This trend escalated dramatically in the last weeks of the reporting period. Between 7 October and 31 October 2023, in 15 herding communities across the West Bank, at least 136 households totalling 878 people, including 435 children, were displaced through settler violence and access restrictions.



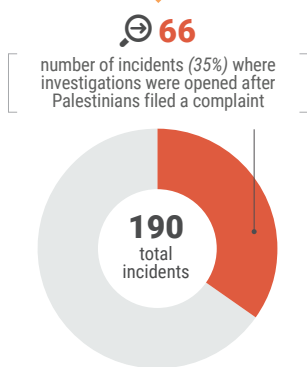
Incidents of settler violence

■ 1 January – 6 October 2023 ■ 7 – 31 October 2023

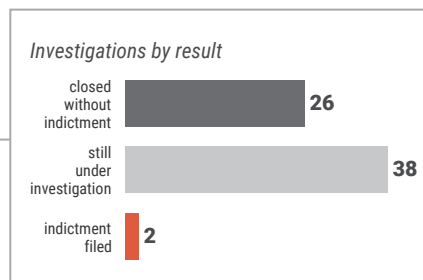


ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SETTLER VIOLENCE

- ▶ During the reporting period, the non-governmental organization Yesh Din looked at **190 incidents of settler violence**:



- ▶ 26 of these investigations were closed without filing an indictment, and 38 incidents were still under investigation. **Only 2 investigations have led to the filing of indictments – 3% of all investigations – with both cases ongoing.**



- ▶ Of the 123 incidents where the Palestinian victims of settler attacks decided not to file a complaint, **86 reported to Yesh Din that their main reason for not doing so was their lack of faith in the Israeli authorities to apprehend the perpetrator. 13 reported fear of retaliation** from the Israeli authorities or the Israeli settlers as their primary reason.

- ▶ Policing and judicial bodies administered by the Israeli military in the Occupied Palestinian Territory for more than 56 years have **steadily entrenched systematic patterns of violation of Palestinians' due process and fair trial rights.**

FORCED EVICTIONS, DEMOLITIONS AND NON-ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMITS

- ▶ Israel **demolished Palestinian-owned structures in the West Bank at one of the fastest rates on record:**



- ▶ Out of the **210 demolitions in East Jerusalem, 89 were self-demolitions by their owners, affecting 107 structures, including 84 residential structures, to avoid paying fines and charges** from the Israeli authorities, epitomizing the coercive environment that Palestinians live in.

- ▶ This resulted in **1,015 Palestinians displaced**. Demolished structures included **285 residential buildings, 117 donor-funded structures, and 57 water, sanitation and hygiene facilities.** (OCHA)

- ▶ Most of these self-demolitions – **27% – occurred in Jabal al Mukkabir area** in East Jerusalem.

MILITARY FIRING ZONES

- ▶ **Nearly 30% of Area C**, primarily in the Jordan Valley, totalling **18%** of the West Bank where some **6,200** Palestinians currently live, **has now been designated by Israel as closed military "firing zones."**

- ▶ In these zones, **Israel prohibits Palestinian construction, including homes and infrastructure, and regularly demolishes and confiscates** Palestinian-owned property.

RECOMMENDATIONS

TO THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES

A. Immediately and completely cease and reverse the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and all other related activity, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 497 (1981) and 2334 (2016).

B. Rescind all policies and practices that contribute to a coercive environment and increase the risk of forcible transfer of Palestinians.

C. Cease and reverse the transfer of powers from the military administration to the Israeli civilian government over the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, and ensure that all measures taken as Occupying Power are fully consistent with international law.

D. Fulfil its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law regarding the protection of all Palestinians and their housing, land and property from violence by Israeli settlers, and ensure that all allegations of settler violence are promptly, effectively, impartially and transparently investigated, and that perpetrators are prosecuted in accordance with due process and fair trial guarantees and, if found guilty, punished with penalties commensurate with the gravity of the offences.

E. Ensure that all members of Israeli security forces and the Israel Police alleged to have supported, facilitated or participated in acts of settler violence are investigated and held to account in accordance with international standards.

F. Ensure that victims of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law have their right to remedy and reparation upheld.

G. Reform planning policies, laws and practices that enable discriminatory eviction and demolition orders against Palestinians, and that create a coercive environment that forces Palestinians to self-demolish their own properties.

H. Repeal laws that discriminate against Palestinian residency in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

I. Ensure that civil society actors can freely conduct their activities without harassment, including for groups monitoring and reporting on human rights violations caused by Israeli settlements.

J. Take immediate steps to dismantle the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in line with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice, as a step towards **ensuring Palestinians' full access to their lands and livelihoods and the enjoyment of their right to self-determination.**

K. Cease and reverse the establishment of the dual system of justice that has discriminatory effects on Palestinians, as well as other laws and policies resulting in patterns of systematic discrimination against Palestinians.

L. End the 56-year military occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, as part of a broader process towards achieving equality, justice, democracy, non-discrimination and the fulfilment of all human rights for all Palestinians.