

THE REPORT

- 1 Analyses the further and rapid deterioration of the human rights situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem between 7 October and 20 November 2023.
- 2 Highlights that Palestinians live in constant terror of discriminatory use of Israeli State force and settler violence.
- 3 Warns that the situation may further deteriorate if Israel does not adopt urgent measures to comply with International Human Rights Law (IHRL) & International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DOCUMENTED BY OHCHR

- A Increase in the use of unnecessary or disproportionate force by Israeli security forces (ISF) resulting in unlawful killings.
- B Mass arbitrary arrests, detentions and reported torture and other ill-treatment by ISF, raising concerns of collective punishment.
- C Exponential increase in attacks by armed settlers leading to mass displacement of Palestinian herding communities.
- D Ongoing discriminatory movement restrictions affecting daily life and choking the local economy.

USE OF UNNECESSARY OR DISPROPORTIONATE FORCE RESULTING IN UNLAWFUL KILLINGS (7 OCT – 27 DEC 2023)

291 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem were killed by ISF from 7 Oct – 27 Dec 2023

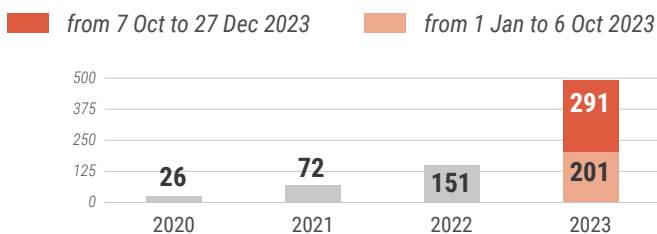
↑ men: 211 (including men with disability: 3) ↑ children: 79 ↑ women: 1

201 fatalities were recorded during ISF operations or confrontations, **NOT involving exchange of fire between Palestinians and ISF.**

105 At least 105 fatalities (↑ men: 82 and ↑ boys: 23) were recorded during ISF law enforcement operations involving use of **airstrikes and other military tactics** in refugee camps and other densely populated areas.

Palestinians killed by ISF in the West Bank incl. EJ in 2020-2023, per year

Since 1 Jan to 27 Dec 2023, ISF killed **492** Palestinians, the highest number of Palestinians killed by ISF since UN records began in 2005.



In 2020, ISF killed **26** Palestinians

↑ men: 19
↑ women: 0
↑ children: 7

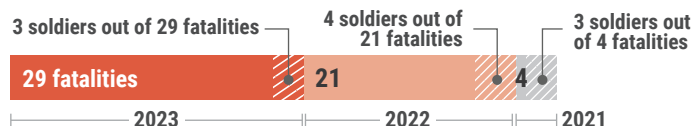
In 2021, ISF killed **72** Palestinians

↑ men: 55
↑ women: 2
↑ children: 15

In 2022, ISF killed **151** Palestinians

↑ men: 111
↑ women: 5
↑ children: 35

Israeli fatalities in attacks by Palestinians in WB in 2021-2023, per year



MASS ARBITRARY ARRESTS, DETENTIONS AND ILL-TREATMENT RAISING CONCERNS OF COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

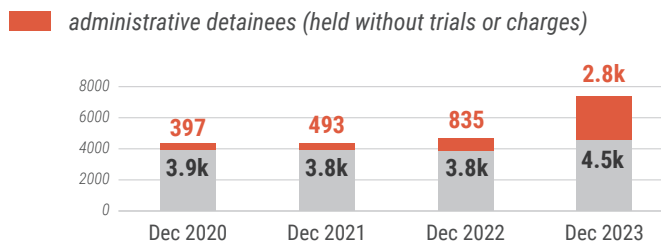
- From **7 Oct to 27 Dec**, ISF carried out daily **mass arrests** and arrested around **4,785** Palestinians, in most cases not linked to the commission of a criminal offence.
- Arrests were regularly accompanied by physical and psychological abuse and humiliation of detainees by ISF, including **sexual and gender-based violence against men and women.**
- In East Jerusalem, a dedicated unit of the Israeli police closely monitored social media activity of Palestinians and carried out **arrests following publication of social media posts.**
- Israeli authorities dramatically worsened conditions and treatment for Palestinians detained by Israel on “security” charges, including through beatings, isolating them from the outside world, and denying medical care. **Six Palestinians died while in Israeli detention.**

Since 7 Oct to 13 Dec, according to the Palestinian Prisoners Commission:

4,000 Palestinians arrested by Israeli Forces, of whom,
↑ children: 255 ↑ women: 123 ↑ journalists: 45

Figures on arrests and detention of Palestinians in the period 2020-2023

Palestinians **detained** by Israel on “security” grounds: (figures by the Israeli Prison services).



FURTHER RISE IN SETTLER VIOLENCE, ALREADY AT RECORD-HIGH LEVELS (7 OCT - 27 DEC 2023)

- Arming and mobilizing settlers as reservists further blurred the line between ISF and settlers.
- Armed settlers coordinated to prevent olive harvest, stole olives, poisoned and vandalized trees.
- Settlers took advantage of the permissive environment after 7 October to accelerate displacement of Palestinian herding communities and expand Israeli control over Area C.

8 Palestinians killed by settlers from 7 Oct to 27 Dec. Of whom, there were ↑ men: 7 and ↑ children: 1. **1** Palestinian man killed either by ISF or by settlers

367 Settler attacks resulting in casualties and/or property damage. Of which, **one third involved the use of firearms** as recorded by OCHA.

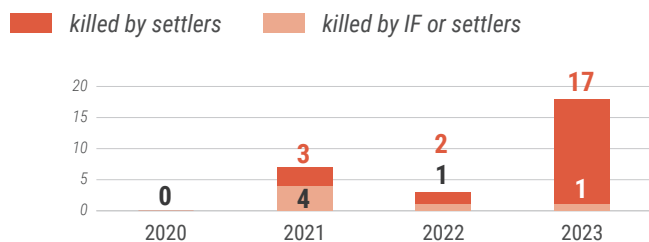
1,208 People including ↑ children: 586 from **15 herding communities** were displaced due to settler violence and access restrictions as per OCHA.

- Despite hundreds of settlers being involved in attacks, **only two settlers** were under arrest (administrative detention) as of **27 Dec 2023.**
- No indictments were filed.

ESCALATION OF SETTLER VIOLENCE IN FIGURES 2020-2023

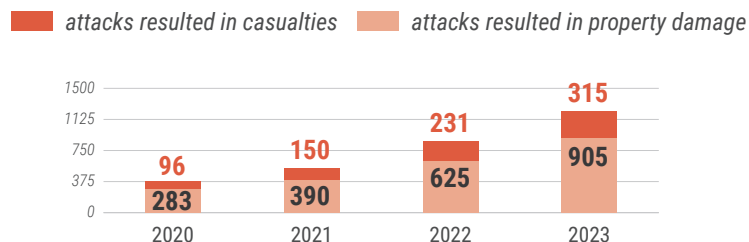
Palestinians killed by settlers in the West Bank in 2020-2023, by year

In 2023, **17** Palestinians were killed by settlers. This included **16** men and **1** boy. Additionally, **1** man was killed either by the ISF or settlers.



Settler attacks resulting in Palestinian casualties and/or property damage in the West Bank in 2020-2023, per year

As per OCHA, In 2023, settler attacks causing property damage rose by **45%**, and those causing casualties increased by **36%** compared to 2022.



SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Government of Israel

- Urgently take steps to end killing and injury of Palestinians during operations in the occupied West Bank and ensure that all use of force is in full compliance with international law and standards governing law enforcement operations, by strictly regulating the use of live ammunition, ensuring that security forces are adequately equipped and trained in the use of less-lethal weapons and that all operations are planned and implemented to minimize the threat to life, and imposing appropriate disciplinary and penal sanctions for members of security forces who do not respect such regulations.
- Immediately end the use of military weapons and operations in the maintenance of public order through law enforcement in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Issue clear and unambiguous orders to all Israeli security forces to ensure the effective protection of the Palestinian population against settler violence, and hold to account members of the Israeli security forces who fail to comply with such orders.
- Ensure that all incidents of violence by settlers and Israeli security forces against Palestinians, including violence against women, and damage to their property, are promptly, effectively, thoroughly, and transparently investigated; that perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions, and that victims are provided with effective remedies, including adequate compensation, in accordance with international standards;
- Lift all discriminatory movement restrictions across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and ensure Palestinians' ability to travel safely throughout the territory.

- Immediately and completely cease and reverse all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in compliance with international law, including relevant United Nations resolutions, such as Security Council resolution 2334 (2016).
- Release Palestinians arbitrarily arrested in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Israel since 7 October. Ensure that detention conditions strictly conform with international norms and standards, end all practices that may amount to torture or other ill-treatment of Palestinians detained and ensure that all allegations of such violations are promptly, impartially, thoroughly and independently investigated, and that perpetrators are held to account.
- As loss of life occurring in custody, in unnatural circumstances, creates a presumption of arbitrary deprivation of life by State authorities, conduct prompt, impartial, thorough and transparent investigation, through an independent body, into Palestinian deaths in Israeli custody.

All States, especially States with influence, should immediately take urgent and concrete measures to:

- Ensure full respect for and compliance with international human rights law, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.
- Ensure that, in accordance with international standards, those responsible for settler violence are appropriately held to account.
- Prevent further deterioration of human rights in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

