

DATA SHEET, DECEMBER 2024

LAW ENFORCEMENT ON ISRAELI CIVILIANS IN THE WEST BANK (SETTLER VIOLENCE)

TWENTY YEARS OF VIOLENCE: YESH DIN MONITORING DATA 2005-2024

- **Approximately 94%** of all investigation files monitored by Yesh Din concerning Israelis' offenses against Palestinians in the West Bank ("settler violence") opened by the Israel Police in the past twenty years ended without an indictment.
- Analysis of the investigation files opened into offenses committed by Israelis against Palestinians reflects that the police failed in the investigation of **81%** of the cases.
- Since 2005, just **3%** of the investigation files opened into ideologically motivated crimes committed against Palestinians led to full or partial convictions.
- Data show a dramatic decline in the trust Palestinian victims of crime have in Israeli law enforcement authorities. In 2024, **66%** of Palestinian crime victims chose not to exercise their right to file a police complaint against Israelis who harmed them.

Over the past two years, settler violence has received media coverage and has become a more central issue for the Israeli public and worldwide. Yet settler violence is not new: ideologically motivated crime perpetrated by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank, as a means to achieve political objectives is as old as Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT), and its intensity has varied.

Since 2005, Yesh Din has been documenting offenses committed by Israeli civilians - settlers and others - against Palestinians or their property in the West Bank and helping crime victims who are interested file complaints with the Israel Police. Acts of violence by Israelis against Palestinians are prevalent throughout the West Bank. They occur in agricultural land, on roads, in the streets of villages, towns and cities, and even inside the homes of the Palestinian residents. Yesh Din's team of field researchers documents violent incidents, and if the victims seek to file a complaint with the police,

Yesh Din's legal team monitors the investigations and represents the victims in legal proceedings against the offenders, if any are taken.

Long term monitoring of the outcomes of investigations into these offenses reveals that the State of Israel breaches its obligation under international law to protect Palestinians in the West Bank from Israelis who seek to harm them. The data show that Israeli law enforcement agencies consistently and systematically fail to enforce the law upon Israeli civilians who harm Palestinians and their property in the OPT.

This failure is evident in every aspect of the Israeli law enforcement system's response to ideologically motivated crime by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank: ineffective prevention, failed police investigations, a low indictment rate, and lenient sentences for convicted offenders. All these result in a lack of deterrence for the criminals and render Palestinians in the OPT defenseless against harassment and attacks by Israelis.

The fact that this systemic failure has persisted for at least two decades evinces that the State of Israel normalizes and supports ideologically motivated violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank as a matter of policy, and benefits from its effects.

1 | BACKGROUND: IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED CRIME PERPETRATED BY ISRAELIS IN THE WEST BANK

One of the main features of Israel's 57-year occupation is its settlement enterprise in the West Bank, which is geared towards land takeover and dispossessing Palestinians. One way this is officially pursued is through military orders that close off areas, or by declaration of land as state land and allocating it to benefit the Israeli settlements. Meanwhile, settlers have utilized violence to expand the scope of Israel's takeover of Palestinian land, sowing fear and terror among Palestinians and disrupting their daily lives. In this way, separate offenses committed by individuals accumulate to form a system of ideological crime that is designed to dispossess Palestinians of their land and expand Israeli control in the West Bank.¹

1 See for example: Yesh Din, [Plundered Pastures: Israeli settler shepherding outposts in the West Bank and their infringement on Palestinians' human rights](#) (December 2021); Yesh Din, [Yitzhar – A case study: Settler violence as a vehicle for taking over Palestinian land with state and military backing](#) (August 2018); Yesh Din, [The Road to Dispossession: A Case Study - The Outpost of Adei Ad](#) (February 2013).

The establishment of Israel's 37th government in December 2022 has had significant implications for Israeli control in the West Bank. Upon its establishment, the government explicitly stated that it aimed to expand the settlement enterprise in the West Bank, and agreements signed with coalition parties created a practical action plan for retroactively authorizing the illegal Israeli outposts and annexing the West Bank to Israel.² Bezalel Smotrich was appointed additional minister in the Ministry of Defense and received responsibility for the Civil Administration; Itamar Ben Gvir was appointed Minister of National Security - the minister responsible for the Israel Police.³ Thus, the government of Israel sent a clear message of support and backing for organized settler violence as a means for achieving its goals and increasing takeover of land in the West Bank.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), there has been a large increase in the scope of violent incidents perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the West Bank in the two years since the government was established. Between January and September 2023 - even prior to the October 7 attack - OCHA documented 844 incidents of settler violence, compared with 474 during the same period in 2022. All in all, in 2023 there were 1,290 settler violence incidents. The trend continued in 2024. Between January and October 2024, OCHA documented 1,184 incidents of violence perpetrated by settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank.⁴

Along with the increase in the number of such incidents, during the past two years the settlers' violence has been characterized by perpetration of organized, mass riots inside Palestinian communities; these have involved attacks on residents' homes, throwing rocks, damaging property and torching vehicles and buildings.

The first such incident in a series of events was the riot in Huwarah in February of 2023 ("Huwarah pogrom"), in which settlers set fire to dozens of homes and approximately

2 See: The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Breaking the Silence, Ofek Center and Yesh Din, [The Silent Overhaul: Changing the nature of Israeli control in the West Bank, analysis of the Israeli government's annexation policy](#), (July 2024).

3 Once the government was formed, the Knesset approved Amendment 37 to the Police Ordinance (also known as the "Ben Gvir law"); this amendment expands the Minister of National Security's authority and subordinates the Israel Police's policy and operations directly to Minister Ben Gvir. Simultaneously, a new body was established within the Ministry of Defense called the Settlement Administration. Directly subordinate to Minister Smotrich, the Settlement Administration dominates most areas of civilian affairs in the West Bank, including law enforcement against illegal construction. For further reading see: The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Breaking the Silence, Ofek Center and Yesh Din, [The Silent Overhaul: Changing the nature of Israeli control in the West Bank, analysis of the Israeli government's annexation policy](#), (July 2024).

4 For OCHA 2023-2024 data see: [West Bank, Monthly Snapshot](#), October 31, 2024. For data collected in previous years see: [Protection of Civilians, occupied Palestinian territory, 13-26 September 2022](#).

100 vehicles. Several months later, in June 2023, a group of roughly 200 settlers invaded Turmusaya and set fire to homes and vehicles;⁵ in April 2024, hundreds of settlers attacked several Palestinian villages, including Duma and al-Mughayir, torching homes and vehicles and attacking residents;⁶ in August 2024, approximately 100 masked settlers raided the village of Jit, west of Nablus, setting fire to homes and vehicles, throwing rocks and Molotov Cocktails, and shot a village resident to death; in October 2024, a band of settlers entered the village of Jalud near Ramallah and set fire to several homes and vehicles; and in early November, settlers entered the town of al-Birah in Area A at night and torched roughly 20 vehicles owned by Palestinians. Mass incidents of this kind are a new phenomenon in the West Bank, rarely experienced previously.

After October 7, 2023 the scope and severity of violent incidents escalated. During the first few months of the war in Gaza, hundreds of incidents of violence against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank were documented.⁷ In parallel, as the war went on, the army drafted thousands of settlers to reserve service through an expedited procedure for emergency response teams and “regional defense” units in the West Bank. The army also established numerous roadblocks on the roads and at entrances to Palestinian communities, built new army posts, and carried out more invasions of Palestinian villages and homes. During this period, many cases were documented in which armed settlers perpetrated violence, harassed, assaulted and threatened Palestinians or harmed their property.⁸

The increase in the number of incidents of violence and harassment over the last year prevented Palestinian residents of the West Bank from reaching and cultivating their farmland in many cases, severely harmed the olive harvest,⁹ and led also to the

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- 5 Hagar Shezaf, Jack Khoury, Ben Samuels and Amir Tibon, [“Palestinian Shot Dead as Dozens of Jewish Settlers Torch Homes, Vehicles in West Bank”](#), **Haaretz English website**, June 21, 2023.
 - 6 Oren Ziv, [“The soldiers opened the way for the settlers’: Pogroms surge across West Bank”](#), **+972 Magazine**, April 15, 2024; Documentation of the riots in al-Mughayir on [Yesh Din’s Facebook page](#), April 18, 2024.
 - 7 Between October 7 and November 20, 2023, Yesh Din documented 225 incidents of settler violence that were perpetrated in 93 Palestinian villages and towns in the West Bank. For a detailed account of these incidents see: [Settler Violence Incidents in the West Bank - October 7th until November 20th 2023](#).
 - 8 During the peak, roughly 8,000 regional defense soldiers were stationed in the West Bank, at least 5,500 of whom were residents of settlements. By January 2024, the army had distributed approximately 7,000 weapons to settlers in the West Bank. See: Hagar Shezaf, [“Israel’s Army Drafted and Armed Thousands of Settlers. Accounts of Their Violence Are Piling Up”](#), **Haaretz English website**, January 17, 2024.
 - 9 In October and November 2023, Yesh Din documented 113 violent incidents linked to the harvest or prevention of the harvest by Israeli settlers and soldiers. For a detailed account of these incidents see: Yesh Din, [Summary of the 2023 olive harvest](#), February 1, 2024; Between October 1 and November 15, 2024, Yesh Din documented

forcible transfer of 20 Palestinian small communities since the war began.¹⁰ Following a petition submitted by two of the expelled communities, the Supreme Court re-stated the obvious in its judgement: “Army and police officials operating in the Judea and Samaria Area are obligated to strive to defend the protected residents of the Area from violence or unlawful activity.”¹¹

Under international law, Palestinian residents of the OPT are considered “protected persons” and Israel is obligated to protect them and their property. The fundamental principles underlying the rule of law in Israel also require the state to protect the Palestinians in the OPT from violence and unlawful action. However, **the data that Yesh Din has collected for two decades reflect that Israel is unwilling to prevent or stop ideologically motivated crime perpetrated by Israelis**, showing that the Israeli law enforcement system fails to fulfil its duty to protect Palestinians from violence perpetrated by Israelis.

Offenses committed by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank carry a particular significance as they occur as part of a regime in which one national group is controlled and oppressed by another. This is a regime that engages in the crime of apartheid, as defined in international criminal law. The offenders are citizens of the State of Israel who enjoy privileges and have the military’s protection, while the victims are Palestinians who live under a repressive regime that is forced on them and suffer from systemic discrimination in rights and resources.¹²

In light of Israel’s failure to protect the residents of the occupied territory, in 2024, several state and foreign entities, first and foremost the US, UK, France and the European Union, applied a series of sanctions and economic restrictions against dozens of violent settlers involved in attacking Palestinians and whom were not properly dealt with by the Israeli law enforcement system. Several farm outposts and settlement organizations involved in establishing illegal outposts were also sanctioned. While these sanctions do hinder the routines of settlers who were involved in violent

113 incidents of violence, harassment and incidents that prevented harvesting olives in 50 Palestinian communities throughout the West Bank. For a detailed account of these incidents see: Yesh Din, [Summary of the 2024 olive harvest](#). See also Nurit Yohanan, “[The olive harvest: Palestinians report harassment and olive theft](#)”, **Kan - Israel Public Broadcasting Corporation**, November 4, 2024 (Hebrew).

10 According to [data collected by B’Tselem](#), since the war in Gaza began and until October 30, 2024, 20 Palestinian communities were forcibly transferred - communities that are comprised of 1,174 people, of whom 457 are minors.

11 Chen Maanit, “[Israel’s Top Court: IDF Must Protect Palestinians From West Bank Settlers, Even During War](#)”, **Haaretz English website**, July 31, 2024. Read [the Judgment](#) (Hebrew).

12 Yesh Din, [The Israeli Occupation of the West Bank and the Crime of Apartheid: Legal Opinion](#) (June 2020).

incidents and prohibit them from entering the territory of those countries, in practice, these measures do not appear to deter violent settlers, decrease the scope of settler violence or address it systematically.

After years of silence or denial, senior officials in the Israeli security establishment have begun voicing criticism publicly in Israel, even referring to the phenomenon as “nationalist terrorism”.¹³ It is possible that this minor change results from Itamar Ben Gvir’s appointment as the minister responsible for the police, and from the fact that, according to reports, he instructed the police to refrain entirely from enforcement against Israelis involved in Jewish terrorism in the West Bank.¹⁴ In November 2024, commander of the Israel Police Samaria and Judea District’s Central Investigative Unit, which is responsible for investigating and solving ideologically motivated crimes against Palestinians, was arrested on suspicion of intentionally preventing investigations of incidents of settler violence or obstructing them in order to appease Minister Ben Gvir and receive a promotion from him.¹⁵ If these allegations are proven, it is a grave and very worrying indication of the police’s functioning, which corresponds to the data collected by Yesh Din concerning the police’s failure to prevent and investigate incidents of violence by settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank.

Yet the systemic failure began long before Ben Gvir entered the Ministry of National Security. This is a longstanding and consistent failure, indicative of a deliberate Israeli policy that not only accepts and internalizes ideologically motivated violence against Palestinians in the West Bank, but also supports it and benefits from its outcomes.

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- 13 From a joint statement issued by the Chief of the General Staff, Shin Bet Chief and the Police Commissioner dated June 2023. IDF Spokesperson Website, [Committed to fighting attacks against innocent Palestinians in Judea and Samaria](#), June 23, 2024 (Hebrew). See also: Jonathan Lis, “Shin Bet Chief Warns PM and Ministers: Jewish Terror Is Jeopardizing Israel’s Existence”, [Haaretz English website](#), 22.8.2024.
- 14 Ilana Dayan, “The Document Submitted to the Chief of Staff and the Shin Bet Heads’ Opinion of Ben Gvir’s Instructions”, **N12**, November 23, 2023 (Hebrew). See also: “Report: IDF general, Shin Bet head claim settler violence unchecked on Ben Gvir’s orders”, [Times of Israel](#), November 23, 2023; Ronen Bergman and Mark Mazzetti, “The Unpunished: How Extremists Took Over Israel: After 50 years of failure to stop violence and terrorism against Palestinians by Jewish ultranationalists, lawlessness has become the law”, [New York Times Magazine](#), May 16, 2024.
- 15 Josh Breiner, “Israel Police West Bank Commander Suspected of Ignoring Right-wing Extremism for Promotion”, [Haaretz English website](#), December 5, 2024.

2 | YESH DIN'S SAMPLE: MONITORING OF 1,701 POLICE INVESTIGATIONS SINCE 2005

Since 2005 and until September 2024, Yesh Din has monitored 1,701 investigation files into cases of violence by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem). These investigations are carried out by the Samaria and Judea (SJ) District Police (the Israel Police district for the West Bank).¹⁶ Once police investigations into a crime are concluded, the Israel Police and the State Attorney's Office decide whether to serve an indictment or close the file.

The figures presented in this document do not conclude the results of all police investigations into allegations of such cases opened since 2005 and are limited to cases documented and monitored by Yesh Din. However, the data obtained by Yesh Din throughout the years in such files constitute an extensive and unique sample that enables an analysis of the way the Israel Police responds to ideologically motivated crime by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank.

In some of the investigation files included in Yesh Din's sample, the organization's staff has had to help Israeli investigative authorities carry out their work. This includes liaising between police investigators and Palestinian crime victims, accompanying witnesses to police stations and even finding documents and photographs that are relevant to the investigations and providing them to the investigating units. This absurdity alone demonstrates that the police is unable or unwilling to take effective, independent action to properly investigate Israeli crime against Palestinians. It also means that the data in this sample is somewhat skewed in favor of the investigating authorities compared to other cases in which no external body, such as Yesh Din, acting as the victims' representatives, liaises between them and the investigators and monitors the status and outcomes of the investigations. It is important to emphasize that Yesh Din is not party to police investigations or the decisions made in them.

¹⁶ Except for 14 files investigated following a police decision at one of the Jerusalem district police stations, although the offenses were committed against Palestinian residents and occurred in the OPT.

PRONOUNCED DECREASE IN WILLINGNESS TO SUBMIT COMPLAINTS - MISTRUST IN THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES

In addition to the 1,701 investigations whose outcomes will be presented here, Yesh Din has documented hundreds of additional incidents of settler violence in which the Palestinian crime victims chose not to file a complaint with the police.

In many cases, Palestinian victims of crimes committed by Israeli citizens in the West Bank are not interested in filing a complaint with the Israeli Police, which is an integral part of the oppressive regime that controls every aspect of their lives. Palestinians fear that filing a complaint against an Israeli would result in further harm to themselves or their family members by the offenders or by authorities. In most cases in which Palestinians do not file a complaint with the police, the offense is not investigated at all.

For example, in 2016-2024, Yesh Din documented 1,280 incidents in which Israeli civilians harmed Palestinians.¹⁷ In just 550 of the cases (42.9%), crime victims filed a complaint with the Israel Police, following which an investigation was opened. The results of these investigations are documented in this data sheet. **However, 531 of the crime victims (41.5%) chose not to file a complaint with the police and the harm they suffered was never investigated. Of these, 352 individuals expressed mistrust in the Israeli authorities and the investigation process, and 132 refrained from filing a complaint, fearing that filing a complaint would harm them or result in their Israeli work or entry permit being revoked.** In the remaining cases, the case was transferred to a different agency or terminated for various reasons.

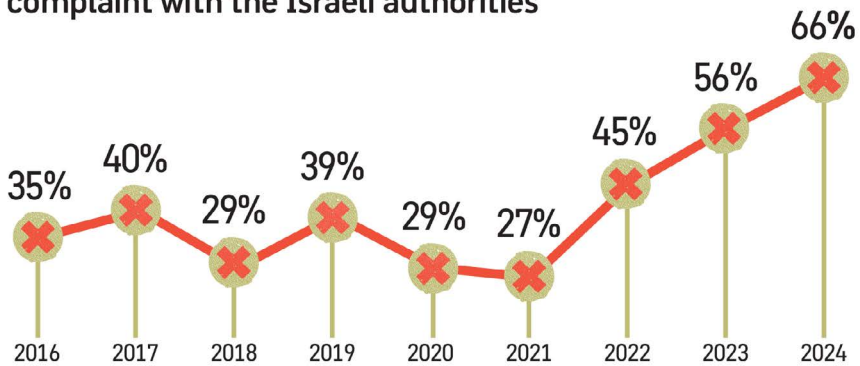
Unwillingness on the part of Palestinians to file official complaints reflects a deep distrust in Israeli law enforcement agencies. In 2016-2021, this rate varied from 27% to 40% of crime victims in incidents documented by Yesh Din. In 2022, there was a sharp increase in distrust of Israeli police, and the percentage of Palestinians who expressed explicit unwillingness to file a complaint with the Israel Police rose to 45% (63 of 140 incidents documented by Yesh Din).

This trend has intensified since the current administration was sworn in and Itamar Ben Gvir took office as Minister of National Security, responsible for the police. Since early 2023 and until September 30, 2024, Yesh Din documented 328 incidents of harm to

¹⁷ Until September 30, 2024. Yesh Din began documenting the reasons crime victims chose not to file a complaint with the Israeli authorities in 2016. Therefore, the figures are updated for this period.

Palestinians, in 199 of which **(60.6%)** the crime victims chose not to file a complaint. The war in Gaza and general escalation of the situation in the West Bank over the past year likely contributed to the fact that during the period between January and the end of September 2024, the percentage of crime victims in Yesh Din cases who chose not to complain reached **66%** (101 of 153 incidents documented by the organization). Although these rates are based on a relatively small number of incidents, the prevailing trend in the past few years is clear and underscores the Israeli authorities' failure to enforce the law upon settlers in the West Bank.

Crime victims in Yesh Din cases who chose not to file a complaint with the Israeli authorities



3 | TYPES OF OFFENSES

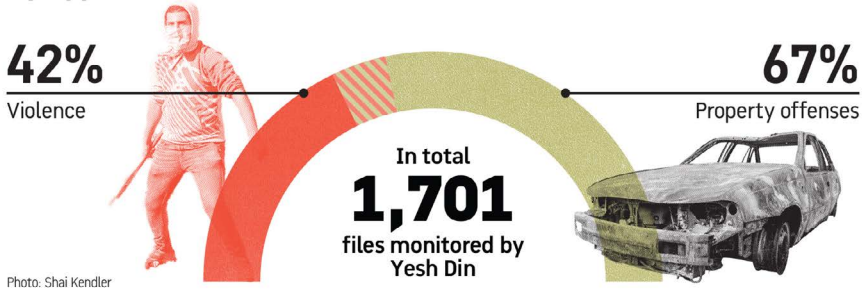
The incidents Yesh Din documents differ in characterization and severity. Israeli citizens in the West Bank utilize different methods to threaten, intimidate and expel Palestinians from their land, farmland and pastureland. The violent incidents are also utilized to disrupt Palestinians' lives on roads and paths, as well as inside Palestinian communities and homes.

Criminal incidents against Palestinians can be divided into two general, main types: **violent offenses**, including homicide, assault, beating, use of firearms, stone-throwing, threats, and killing or harming animals. Alongside these, **property offenses** include torching homes, mosques and cars, theft, cutting down olive trees, harming crops, vandalizing property and spraying graffiti (known as "Price Tag attacks"), as

well as other type of harm to property by way of trespassing, fencing off land, erecting buildings or preventing access to land.

Of all the cases Yesh Din documented between 2005 and 2024, in 718 cases (42%), the incidents involved use of **violent offenses**. In 1,133 cases (67%), the incidents involved **damage to property and belongings**. Some of the incidents documented by Yesh Din over the years include both components, therefore, the total number of incidents is greater than the total number of cases.

Investigation files opened between 2005 and 2024, by type of offense



4 | INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES: MOST CASES ARE CLOSED WITH NO INDICTMENT FILED

As of late September 2024, 35 of the 1,701 investigation files opened following Yesh Din complaints were still being processed by law enforcement agencies. Of the 1,666 concluded investigations:

- 1,563 cases (93.8%) were closed at the end of an investigation with no indictment filed.
- Indictments were filed in just 109 cases (6.6%)*

Investigation outcomes 2005-2024



* Six investigation files (0.4%) were closed by the police but reopened following appeals filed by Yesh Din with an indictment ultimately filed.

5 | GROUNDS FOR CLOSURE: THE POLICE FAIL DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED CRIME

Palestinian crime victims give power of attorney to Yesh Din’s legal team to represent them vis-à-vis Israeli law enforcement agencies. When investigations close, Yesh Din’s legal team examines materials from the police files. If the team finds that the police failed to take required investigative measures or that the evidence collected is sufficient for indicting, Yesh Din files an appeal against the investigation closure on behalf of the Palestinian victim.

Enforcement authorities are expected to update Yesh Din about developments in the investigation and are required to provide written notice of decisions to close investigation files. In these cases, Yesh Din asks for the grounds for closure.¹⁸ Receiving the grounds for closure is important for exhausting the remedies available to crime victims, as they provide information about the circumstances in which the case was closed and whether the police had managed to build the necessary factual basis for

18 The Israel Police National Headquarters Ordinance lists nine possible grounds for closing or shelving investigation files. [Israel Police National Headquarters Ordinance 14.01.01: Complaints and other Information regarding Offenses - Reporting, Classifying and Processing](#), August 23, 2020 (Hebrew). Criminal Procedure Law (Consolidated Version) 1982, Section 63(a)(2): “A decision not to prosecute will be communicated to the complainant in writing without indicating the grounds for closure but noting the complainant may inquire about the grounds for closure personally at any police station or by one of the other means determined by the police.”

laying charges. The grounds for closure also allow the legal team to decide whether to appeal the closure.

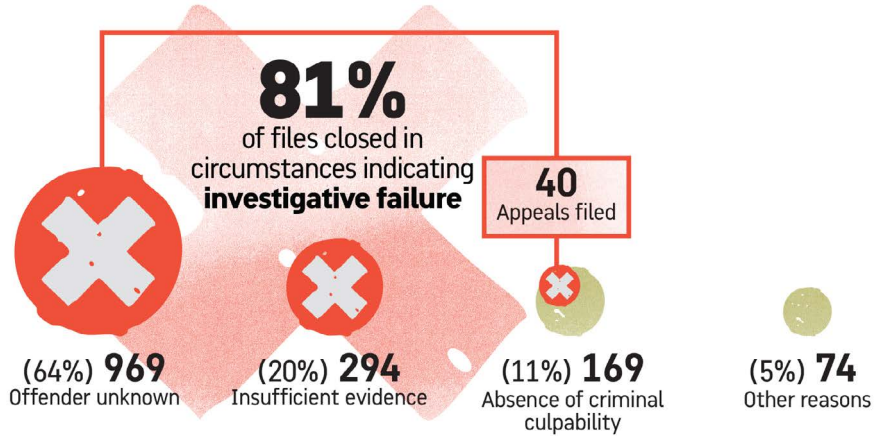
An analysis of the grounds for closure provided to Yesh Din by the police offers insight into trends and patterns in the work of the police and the State Attorney's Office with respect to offenses committed by Israelis in the OPT. Of the 1,563 investigation files opened since 2005 and closed without an indictment, the Israel Police provided Yesh Din with the grounds for closure in 1,506 files.

- **969** files (64.4%) were closed on grounds of **offender unknown**: In other words, the police determined a criminal offense had been committed but failed to name suspects.
- **294** files (19.5%) were closed on grounds of **insufficient evidence**: In other words, the police determined a criminal offense had been committed in those cases and had named suspects but failed to collect and consolidate sufficient evidence to prosecute.
- **169** files (11.2%) were closed on grounds of **absence of criminal offense** or **absence of criminal culpability**: In other words, the police either concluded that it does not suspect that a criminal offense was committed, or that the evidence does indicate a criminal offense had been committed but fails to meet the bar required for prosecution. Yesh Din filed appeals in **40 of these closed files** (roughly one quarter of the files) after determining that the investigations had not been exhaustive and that the police erred in the decision to close the file.
- **74** files (4.9%) were closed on other grounds: 52 files were closed on the grounds of **circumstances not suited for investigation/prosecution** (previously called "lack of public interest"). Three files were closed due to **exemption from criminal liability**,¹⁹ one file was closed due to **statute of limitations**; 16 files were closed due to **investigation purview of another agency** and two files were closed due to a conditional discharge.²⁰

19 Suspect or defendant is not criminally liable due to age (under age 12) or lack of mental capacity.

20 A conditional discharge is an agreement in which the prosecution does not file an indictment on condition that the suspect confesses to the offense and undertakes to fulfil certain conditions.

Grounds for closure of investigation files 2005-2024



Analyzing the circumstances in which investigation files were closed reveals that **the police failed in the investigation of 81% of files opened since 2005 and concluded with known outcomes (1,303 of 1,609 files).**²¹

Of the closed files, 1,263 were closed on the grounds of offender unknown or insufficient evidence, indicating the police found that an offense had been committed, but failed to name suspects or collect enough evidence to prosecute. Yesh Din appealed the closure of 40 of the investigation files closed on grounds of absence of criminal offense or absence of criminal culpability, after assessing that there was, in fact, evidence of a criminal offense or that the investigation had not been exhausted. Accordingly, these files are also counted among the cases closed in a manner indicating investigative failure. **The high rate of failure points to a longstanding systemic and deliberate failure in law enforcement responses to ideologically motivated crime against Palestinians in the West Bank.**

²¹ Of the 1,666 concluded investigation files, including those that ended with an indictment, the Israel Police did not provide the grounds for closure of 57 files, and it is therefore impossible to determine whether closure of these files indicates failure. These files have been omitted from the count. Thus, in a total of 1,609 files processing was concluded with an outcome known to Yesh Din.

6 | INDICTMENTS AND LEGAL PROCEEDING OUTCOMES: ONLY 3% OF INVESTIGATION FILES LED TO A CONVICTION

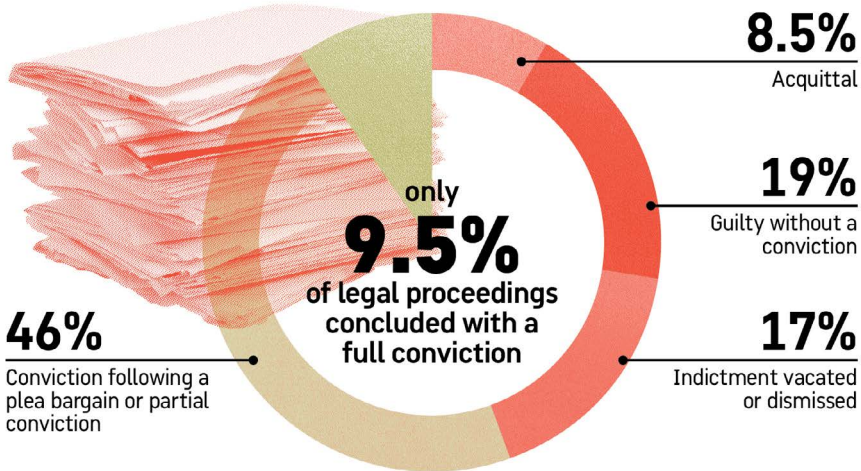
This section addresses the outcomes of the legal proceedings in the few cases (6.5% of cases for which processing was concluded) in which police investigations monitored by Yesh Din led to indictments.²²

The data presented here concerns 109 indictments filed in the 1,701 investigations monitored by Yesh Din since 2005. As of late September 2024, legal proceedings are still ongoing in seven cases, and in seven other cases proceedings have been concluded yet no information has been provided regarding the outcome. Therefore, it is possible to present data concerning the outcome of legal proceedings in 95 cases in which Israeli citizens who harmed Palestinians or their property were prosecuted.

- **9 proceedings ended with a full conviction** of all the defendants (**9.5% of concluded legal proceedings**).
- **44 proceedings (46%) ended with a conviction following a plea bargain or a partial conviction.** Meaning, an agreement was reached between the prosecution and the defendants, usually on lesser charges than those brought in the original indictment, or a conviction of some or all of the defendants of some of the charges in the original indictment.
- **18 proceedings (19%) ended with a finding of guilt without a conviction,** that is, the court determined that the defendant did commit the offense or offenses they were charged with, but refrained from convicting the defendant by law.
- **16 proceedings (17%) ended with the indictment vacated or dismissed** after being filed with the court by the prosecution.
- **8 proceedings (8.5%) ended in the defendant or defendants' acquittal.**

²² It is important to note that Palestinian crime victims are not party to these legal proceedings. The State – represented by the police prosecution units or the State Attorney's Office – prosecutes Israeli civilians. However, crime victims are afforded certain rights under the Crime Victims' Rights Law, and Yesh Din's legal team, which represents them, monitors the legal proceedings and their outcomes.

Outcomes of legal proceedings in Yesh Din cases 2005-2024



In total, since 2005 only 3% of investigation files opened following ideologically motivated offenses Israelis committed against Palestinians in the West Bank and monitored by Yesh Din led to full or partial convictions (53 of 1,652 concluded investigation files with a known outcome, including the results of indictments). For at least twenty years, this low conviction rate has sent the message that the law enforcement system does not consider settler violence a violation for which citizens should be held accountable by law enforcement, and contributes to the perpetrators' sense of immunity and the recurrence of these acts.

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