

DATA SHEET, DECEMBER 2024

LAW ENFORCEMENT ON ISRAELI SOLDIERS SUSPECTED OF HARMING PALESTINIANS AND THEIR PROPERTY IN THE WEST BANK

FIGURES FOR 2018-2022

- The probability of a complaint regarding harm caused to Palestinians by soldiers in the West Bank culminating in an indictment filed against the soldiers is just **1.5%**
- The probability of an Israeli soldier being indicted for killing Palestinians is just **0.4%**
- Only **30%** of all complaints into incidents of suspected soldier offenses against Palestinians in the West Bank resulted in an investigation
- As of October 2024, only 13 cases (**5%**) out of the total 258 investigations opened in 2018-2022 resulted in indictments
- The military does not investigate all cases in which Palestinian civilians are killed.
- In the rare cases in which soldiers are convicted, they receive lenient sentences

Yesh Din has been monitoring the military's law enforcement response to offenses committed by soldiers against Palestinians or their property in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) since 2005. Every year, we publish current data based on information provided to Yesh Din by the Israeli military in response to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act, as well as multi-year monitoring of military law enforcement by Yesh Din.

This data sheet focuses on the military law enforcement system's response to soldier offenses against Palestinians committed in the West Bank from 2018 to 2022. The data presented here complement a publication released by Yesh Din in May 2024, entitled The General Staff Whitewashing Mechanism: The Israeli Law Enforcement System and Breaches of international law and war crimes in Gaza, which addressed

the performance of the military law enforcement system with respect to incidents in the Gaza Strip over the past decade.¹

Military law enforcement on soldiers is governed by the provisions of Israeli law applicable to the military and by obligations imposed on the Israeli army as an occupying power under international law. The purpose of monitoring law enforcement on soldiers' offenses against Palestinians and their property is to determine the extent to which Israel is fulfilling its obligation to enforce the law on soldiers who harm protected persons, i.e. the Palestinian population, living under its control (beyond the rights abuses inherent in the military occupation itself). Over the past year, the performance of the military law enforcement system has become more relevant than ever, as the military's actions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank are now pending before international tribunals and institutions, chiefly, the International Criminal Court (ICC).²

The Rome Statute, which entered into effect in 2002, establishes the ICC's jurisdiction to independently investigate the criminal liability of individuals in relation to genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. According to the principle of complementarity, a fundamental tenet of the Rome Statute, the ICC may initiate an investigation and prosecute for war crimes only in cases in which enforcement authorities in the country in question are unwilling or unable to carry out genuine, professional investigations into allegations of state actors committing crimes within the ICC's jurisdiction, including war crimes, and bring those responsible to justice.³ The State of Israel refuses to recognize the ICC's jurisdiction to investigate suspected war crimes committed by its agents, partly based on the claim that the Israeli law enforcement system conducts its own investigations into allegations against Israeli security forces.⁴

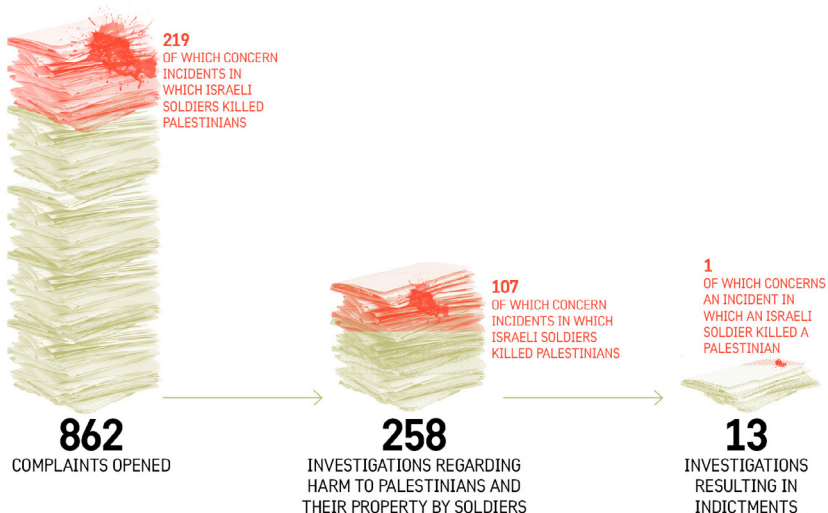
This data sheet, summarizing the five years preceding the current war in Gaza, demonstrates that military law enforcement authorities consistently avoid investigating and prosecuting soldiers who commit offenses against Palestinians in the West Bank. In this way, the military is failing to uphold its duty to protect Palestinian residents

- 1 Yesh Din, [The General Staff Whitewashing Mechanism: The Israeli law enforcement system and breaches of international law and war crimes in Gaza](#) (May 2024).
- 2 In March 2021, the ICC determined it had jurisdiction over the situation in Palestine - the territory of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem). See: Statement of ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, respecting an investigation of the Situation in Palestine, [ICC website](#) (last accessed December 12, 2024).
- 3 Article 17, of the [Rome Statute 1998](#).
- 4 For the position of Israel's Attorney General, see: [Ministry of Foreign Affairs website](#) (last accessed December 10, 2024).

from offenses committed by Israeli soldiers and commanders which are endemic to and inherent in Israel's ongoing occupation. This systemic failure paves the way for intervention by international tribunals.

The figures provided below indicate the military law enforcement system is reluctant to take appropriate action regarding soldier offenses against Palestinians. The data shows that Israel is unwilling to conduct genuine investigation and prosecution procedures in cases of offenses committed by soldiers. Despite the large number of complaints of harm to Palestinians by soldiers each year, investigations are opened only in a minority of the cases, and the number of indictments filed against the implicated soldiers is minuscule. Finally, even in the rare instances in which soldiers are convicted of offenses against Palestinians, the military courts hand down extremely lenient sentences. All this leads to the conclusion that Israel's military law enforcement system is used mainly to whitewash - or even legitimize - crimes committed against Palestinians by Israeli soldiers.

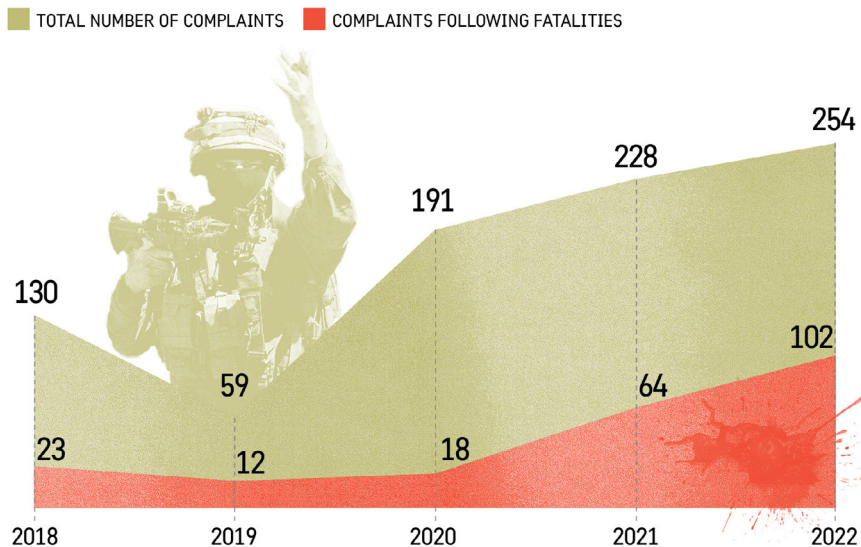
RESPONSE TO ISRAELI SOLDIERS' OFFENSES AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST BANK 2018-2022



COMPLAINTS REGARDING ALLEGED OFFENSES COMMITTED BY SOLDIERS AGAINST PALESTINIANS, 2018-2022

According to responses provided by the military to queries made by Yesh Din under the Freedom of Information Act, in 2018-2022, the Military Advocate for Operational Matters (the Military Advocate General's Corps department charged, inter alia, with handling offenses against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank and Gaza Strip) **received 862 complaints concerning suspected soldier offenses against Palestinians or their property in the West Bank.**⁵

862 COMPLAINTS REGARDING SUSPECTED OFFENSES BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING 219 FATALITIES



⁵ Military Spokesperson to Yesh Din, [Response to Application under the Freedom of Information Act](#) (June 20, 2019) (Hebrew); Military Spokesperson to Yesh Din, [Response to Application under the Freedom of Information Act](#) (April 7, 2020) (Hebrew); Military Spokesperson to Yesh Din, [Response to Application under the Freedom of Information Act](#) (May 3, 2021) (Hebrew); Military Spokesperson to Yesh Din, [Response to Application under the Freedom of Information Act](#) (September 19, 2022) (Hebrew); Military Spokesperson to Yesh Din, [Response to Application under the Freedom of Information Act](#) (December 21, 2023) (Hebrew).

The Military Advocate General's Corps (MAGC) classifies all complaints and updates it receives regarding alleged offenses committed by soldiers against Palestinians as "reports," a dismissive phrase that aptly illustrates how disconnected the military law enforcement is from Palestinians and how it trivializes soldiers' offenses against them.⁶ In the absolute majority of cases, complaints about soldier offenses against Palestinians are forwarded to the MAGC by an external party or an intermediary, such as the Ministry of Justice, human rights organizations, the Israel Police, military units' operational reports, lawyers, private individuals, media reports and sources the military defines as "other."⁷ Complaints about soldiers' offenses are rarely the result of an active, direct demand from the Palestinian victims themselves to investigate the offense against them and pursue justice.⁸ In Yesh Din's experience, crime victims are often fearful that complaining against soldiers would result in further harm to themselves or their family members in the form of denied work permits or other forms of retribution.

Between 2018 and 2022, the MAGC received 28% of the complaints regarding suspected soldier offenses against Palestinians from the Inspector for Complaints Against the Israel Security Agency (a Ministry of Justice unit charged with reviewing complaints against members of the Israel Security Agency, or ISA).⁹ Twenty-four percent of complaints against soldiers were transferred to the MAGC through military units' operational reports; 14% were forwarded to the military by the Israel Police, 12% by human rights organizations (including Yesh Din), and 9% of complaints were sent to the army by lawyers or private individuals. Five percent of complaints concerning soldiers harming Palestinians were brought to the attention of the military through media reports, and 6.6% by "other" sources.¹⁰

It is important to note that the complaints brought to the military's attention each year do not account for all incidents of suspected criminal offenses against Palestinians by members of Israeli security forces. Offenses committed by police officers, ISA

6 In this document, we use the terms complaint or case to describe all incidents, reports and complaints regarding soldier offenses against Palestinians and their property brought to the military's attention.

7 For example: information received through military court hearings in the OPT, information given by Palestinian suspects to the police, soldiers' statements to the Military Police Criminal Investigation Division and reports from the MAGC unit in the West Bank.

8 Military Spokesperson to Yesh Din, [Response to Application under the Freedom of Information Act](#) (December 21, 2023) (Hebrew), paragraph 6.

9 The Inspector for Complaints Against the Israel Security Agency (ISA) Interrogators, at: [Ministry of Justice website](#) (last accessed December 10, 2024).

10 See supra note 5.

personnel and private security guards operating in the OPT are examined separately. While the military does have the authority to make inquiries and investigations into shooting incidents involving Border Police officers in the West Bank, until October 2019, such incidents were not handled by the MAGC but rather investigated separately by the Department of Police Investigations.

Additionally, as noted, many victims have no interest in filing a complaint with the military, the same entity that controls every aspect of their lives as part of a regime of military occupation and tramples their rights every day. Many Palestinians rightfully see the military as an oppressive institution that is not designed to serve them, much less help them assert their rights.

Yesh Din case – Checkpoint assault, victim does not wish to complain

In the early afternoon of October 2022, M. was stopped at a checkpoint between the settlement of Halamish and the village of Deir Nidham by three soldiers who ordered him to halt and then searched his car. One soldier found Muslim prayer beads (masbaha) with a small Palestinian flag pendant. The soldier pointed to the flag and asked M. what it was. M. replied, "It's a Palestinian flag." The soldier swore at him and said: "This is Israel."

Later, the soldier ordered M. to step out of the car. The other two soldiers joined in and ordered him to turn around and stand with his hands up. When M. looked back, the three soldiers lunged at him, knocking him down to the ground. M. described the incident to a Yesh Din researcher: "They had me lie face down, yelling at me. The soldier with the sidelocks kicked my left leg, which was bent to the side on the ground. He hit the ankle joint. I screamed in pain. The soldiers shouted at me: Shut up!"

When another Palestinian car drove up to the checkpoint, the soldiers left M. and ordered the car to stop. One of the soldiers told M., who was still lying on the ground, "Get out of here." M. dragged himself to his car and drove away, injured and in pain. He then called his brother, who took him to the hospital. M. had several tests, which revealed a crack along his shin. His leg was put in a cast. M.'s recovery took a long time, impeding his earning capacity.

When asked if he wanted to complain to the military authorities, M. replied: "I'm not going to complain about the harm I suffered. If I knew for sure that the

soldier who hurt me would be punished, I'd complain, even at the cost of being denied entry to Israel for many years. But since I know he won't be punished and the complaint could harm me, I won't complain."¹¹

According to information provided to Yesh Din by the army, **of the 862 complaints filed with the MAGC in 2018-2022, 296 concerned shooting incidents, 219 of which (74%) resulted in a Palestinian fatality. An additional 462 complaints concerned soldier violence, 149 concerned property offenses (looting or vandalism), 16 concerned suspected cases of "standing idly by,"¹² and 23 related to other incidents.**¹³ The military has told Yesh Din that incidents classified under "additional complaints (other)" are "incidents that do not fall under the other categories, such as a soldier who made statements that do not align with IDF values or whose conduct was morally flawed".¹⁴

INVESTIGATIONS OF SOLDIERS' OFFENSES AGAINST PALESTINIANS

Unlike complaints submitted to the police following suspected offenses committed by civilians, complaints filed with the MAGC regarding offenses by soldiers do not automatically result in an investigation. According to replies from the military, **between 2018 and 2022, the military police opened a total of 258 investigations into incidents of harm to Palestinians by soldiers in the West Bank.** As noted, the total number of suspected cases of soldier offenses against Palestinians in the West Bank brought to the attention of the MAGC was 862. In other words, according to figures supplied to Yesh Din, only 30% of the complaints brought to the military's attention resulted in an investigation.

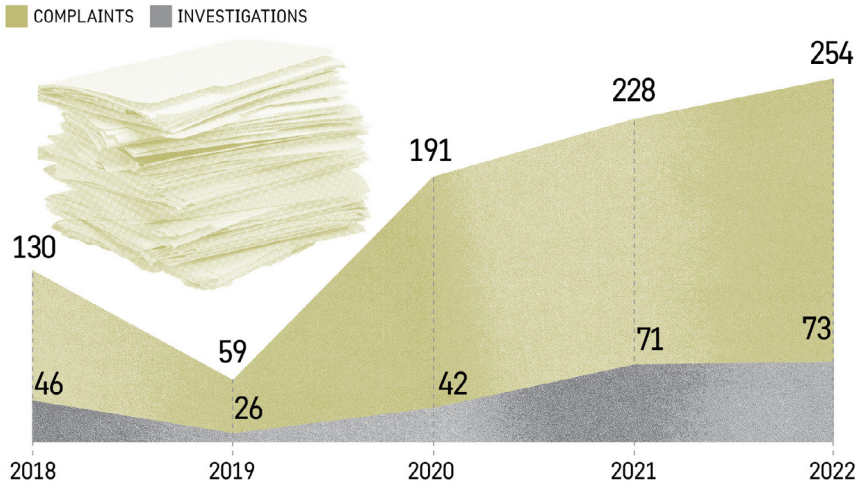
11 Case monitored by Yesh Din, testimonies given as part of the work on the case.

12 The term standing idly by refers to incidents in which soldiers witness violent offenses committed by Israeli civilians against Palestinians and their property and do nothing to prevent the harm in real time.

13 Under this breakdown, the total number of complaints exceeds 862 as some complaints involve more than one type of offense.

14 Military Spokesperson to Yesh Din, **Response to Application under the Freedom of Information Act** (July 21, 2014) (Hebrew).

SUSPECTED OFFENSES BY ISRAELI SOLDIERS AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST BANK 2018-2022: 862 COMPLAINTS, 258 INVESTIGATIONS



According to military policy, the MAGC can order a complaint closed without launching a criminal investigation. Alternatively, when the initial details of the complaint do not clearly indicate an offense has been committed, it can order a preliminary factual inquiry, based on which the decision whether to open an investigation is made.¹⁵ Of 732 complaints received between 2019 and 2022,¹⁶ the MAGC ordered an immediate criminal investigation in 109 complaints about incidents in the West Bank (15% of all complaints in that time frame). The MAGC ordered the complaint closed without any inquiry or investigation in 92 cases (12.5% of all complaints received in that time frame), and one case from 2020 was referred for disciplinary action.

¹⁵ Over the past decade, the military has had separate law enforcement pathways on soldier offenses against Palestinians and their property depending on whether the offenses were committed in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank. Complaints regarding incidents that took place in the Gaza Strip are usually reviewed by a designated body known as the General Staff Mechanism for Fact-Finding Assessments. See: Yesh Din, [The General Staff Whitewashing Mechanism - The Israeli law enforcement system and breaches of international law and war crimes in Gaza](#) (May 2024).

¹⁶ The army's response regarding the outcomes of factual inquiries in 2018 does not include a breakdown showing whether offenses were committed in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. For this reason, 2018 was omitted in this section only.

In 530 cases (about 72.5% of the complaints in the relevant years), the MAGC ordered a preliminary factual inquiry before deciding whether to close the case or order a criminal investigation. Of these 530 cases, 338 (63.7%) were closed following the inquiry without a criminal investigation, and 82 cases were transferred for a criminal investigation. Yesh Din has no information regarding the remaining 108 cases, as according to the army's responses, these cases were still being processed. In Yesh Din's experience, many cases sent for a preliminary factual inquiry before a decision on a criminal investigation remain under inquiry for a long time, severely undermining the ability to conduct an effective investigation.

According to the official policy of the military law enforcement system, the MAGC must order an immediate criminal investigation in every incident involving the death of a Palestinian as a result of soldier actions in the West Bank (with no conditions or a preliminary inquiry), except fatalities during activities involving "actual combat."¹⁷ Nevertheless, the figures the military provided to Yesh Din indicate it does not investigate all incidents in which Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli security forces. The military informed Yesh Din that **in the years 2018-2022, it received 219 complaints concerning soldiers killing Palestinians in the West Bank. Of these, only 107 investigations were opened.**¹⁸ The military's figures show that in practice, investigations into fatalities are far from automatic or immediate. Of the total number of cases in which Palestinians were killed by Israeli security forces in the West Bank, only 93 were immediately investigated.

In recent years, the army has adopted an extremely broad interpretation of the term "actual combat," which was never accurately defined. The ambiguity of this term helps legitimize incidents of Palestinian deaths at the hands of Israeli soldiers and is often used by the MAGC to avoid launching criminal investigations against soldiers, even when the death is the result of a shooting. Yesh Din's experience representing Palestinian victims reveals that many complaints concerning incidents that clearly took place in the context of law enforcement, such as "public disturbances" or "checkpoint riots," as

17 The Public Committee to examine the Maritime Incident of May 31, 2010 - The Turkel Commission, [Second Report: Israel's Mechanisms for Examining and Investigating Complaints and Claims of Violations of the Laws of Armed Conflict According to International Law](#) (February 2013) [hereafter: **Second Turkel Report**], pp. 319-323; 378-379.

18 Importantly, the number of complaints brought to the military's attention does not necessarily reflect the number of cases in which Israeli security forces killed Palestinians in a manner suggesting criminal conduct. According to figures released by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Israeli security forces killed 310 Palestinian civilians in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), 68 of them children. B'Tselem reports similar figures: 303 Palestinians killed by Israeli security forces in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem). See: OCHA, [Data on casualties](#) B'Tselem, [Fatalities Database](#).

the military refers to them, are closed without an investigation, even if innocent civilians were killed. These practices defy the military's own official investigation policy, which clearly states: "[...] as a rule, henceforth, any case in which a civilian is killed as a result of IDF actions in the Judea and Samaria Area [West Bank] will result in an immediate MPCID investigation" (for example, incidents of deaths during public disturbances and checkpoint riots)."¹⁹

Yesh Din Case – The Killing of Muhammad Salah

On February 22, 2022, Muhammad (Hamoudi) Salah, a 13-year-old boy from the town of al-Khadr, left his home around 6:30 P.M. About half an hour later, his father, Riziq Salah, received a call from a relative who told him that Hamoudi had been injured. The father quickly drove to the scene of the incident where he saw several military jeeps and an ambulance. When he asked to see his son, one of the soldiers told him: "Get in the car before I shoot you," immediately followed by: "Leave before I put your body on top of his." This was how the father found out his son had died. The family received Hamoudi's body the next day, and a physician who examined it concluded the cause of death was a bullet that had penetrated his back and exited through his abdomen.

Yesh Din filed a complaint with the army on behalf of the family and demanded an MPCID investigation, in accordance with army guidelines. In November 2022, the Military Advocate for Operational Matters informed Yesh Din that the shooting did not suggest criminal activity warranting an MPCID investigation, and the factual inquiry that was conducted sufficed. According to the army's notice, on that day, a military detail had taken up positions near the road as part of an operation targeting Molotov cocktail throwers. At some point, "Your client's son... lit a Molotov cocktail and threw it at the force," following which, "the force fired live rounds at him."

In June 2024, Yesh Din filed an appeal on behalf of Hamoudi's father demanding a criminal investigation. The appeal noted that the decision to settle for a factual inquiry ran counter to the Attorney General's directives, whereby Palestinian deaths in the West Bank must be investigated, particularly serious cases where the victims are minors. Yesh Din also argued that the military's notice indicated

¹⁹ HCJ 9594/03 **B'Tselem et al. v. Military Advocate General**, Updating Notice on behalf of Respondents, April 4, 2011.

the shooting was unjustified. Hamoudi was shot after he allegedly threw the Molotov cocktail, and, therefore, did not pose a real and immediate danger to the troops who were in full control of the incident. Additionally, it is doubtful that a child could have thrown a Molotov cocktail in a way that would have harmed any of the military personnel present at the scene, given the distance between them. According to the appeal, a criminal investigation was necessary to determine whether the shooting was justified or not. Yesh Din stated: “The question is not whether there is enough evidence to support an indictment, but whether there is evidence to reasonably suspect a criminal offense had been committed for purposes of a criminal investigation. The arguments made [...] prove there are indeed reasonable grounds, and an investigation is required.”

At the time of writing, no response has been received to the appeal.²⁰

The above data indicates that while most operational activity in the West Bank does not involve “actual combat,” but rather falls under law enforcement, the army does not investigate all fatalities caused by soldier violence or use of fire, and even when complaints are filed in such cases, many are closed with no investigation.

INDICTMENTS FILED FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS OPENED IN 2018-2022

As noted, only a small number of complaints resulted in investigations. Still, an even smaller percentage of the investigations led to indictments against soldiers. According to data provided to Yesh Din by the military,²¹ **in 2018- 2022, only 13 investigations concerning offenses against Palestinians in the West Bank culminated in indictments against 29 soldiers, with only one indictment related to an incident involving the killing of a Palestinian.**²²

20 Case monitored by Yesh Din, testimonies given as part of the work on the case.

21 This section of the report is based on the military’s responses to quarterly applications filed under the Freedom of Information Act regarding indictments filed against soldiers who harmed Palestinians and their property.

22 Another indictment was served regarding an incident in which a soldier robbed Palestinians while on leave in 2021. This incident was not included in the data reported in this document because it did not occur during operational activity and was not treated by the military as such. The military itself draws a distinction between suspected criminal offenses committed during operational activity and those committed outside such activity. As a result, this incident was not investigated by the National Operational Investigation Unit (NOIU), the unit that investigates incidents defined as operational, including offenses committed by soldiers against Palestinians and their property. This is why the case was not included in the figures the military reported to Yesh Din.

In other words, out of 862 complaints regarding suspected soldier offenses against Palestinians brought to the attention of the military law enforcement system in 2018- 2022 (including at least 219 cases in which soldiers killed Palestinians), only 258 investigations were opened. Of these investigations, only 13 (5%) resulted in indictments. This means **soldiers were prosecuted in only 1.5% of the total number of complaints against them**, which already represents only a fraction of the actual incidents.

An analysis of cases of offenses by soldiers and other security forces against Palestinians in the West Bank monitored by Yesh Din produced similar results. **Of the 123 complaints filed by Yesh Din on behalf of Palestinian victims of crimes committed by soldiers in the West Bank between 2018 and 2022, only two yielded indictments against soldiers, just 1.6% of the total complaints.**

Cases involving Palestinians killed by soldiers investigated by the Military Police resulted in an indictment rate close to zero. According to military data, out of 219 complaints regarding the killing of Palestinians by soldiers in the West Bank brought to the attention of the military between 2018 and 2022, 107 investigations were opened. However, out of all these, only one investigation (0.9%) involving the killing of Palestinians in the West Bank led to the soldier's prosecution. In other words, **the odds of a soldier being prosecuted for a complaint involving the killing of a Palestinian in the West Bank are just 0.4%**, one prosecution out of 219 killings brought to the attention of the army.

This single prosecution concerned a serious incident that occurred on March 20, 2019, during which a soldier standing in the watchtower at the intersection at the southern entrance to Bethlehem (al-Nashash) opened fire on a Palestinian family whose car had been involved in a road accident. He then proceeded to fire at people who came to the family's aid. The soldier killed Ahmad Manasra, as he approached to assist the family, and seriously wounded 'Ala Raida, the father. In this rare case, in which an indictment was filed against the soldier after he killed a Palestinian (in contravention of the military's orders), the offending soldier received a particularly lenient sentence. He was convicted of the minor offense of negligent homicide under Section 304 of the Military Justice Law **and sentenced to three months' military community service only**, as part of a plea bargain.²³

23 Court-Martial Case **Homefront (District) 27/20**.

It should be noted that since this incident occurred in 2019, and at least until the final quarter of 2023, no indictments were filed against soldiers following killings in the West Bank, despite the numerous cases in which soldiers killed Palestinian civilians in recent years. This conduct demonstrates the military law enforcement system's utter disregard for Palestinians' lives, precludes any possibility of deterrence and encourages continued use of the deadly trigger-happy policy that has claimed so many Palestinian lives.

The figures the military provided to Yesh Din revealed **that investigations that yielded indictments and substantial sentences, such as prison terms,**²⁴ **usually concerned cases considered damaging to the military's image,** such as property offenses or abuse of detainees, as well as cases that were recorded and publicized, and the military appeared to have a clear interest in maintaining the appearance of a functioning law enforcement system. The negligible number of indictments that were filed concerning acts of violence that are inherent in a situation of prolonged military occupation allows the military to maintain its image as a functioning law enforcement system and deflect outside criticism without having to actually bring to justice those responsible for the ongoing abuse of the rights of Palestinians living under Israel's regime.

13 INDICTMENTS FOLLOWING INCIDENTS IN THE WEST BANK 2018-2022, BY TYPE OF OFFENSE



²⁴ See details below.

THE EXCEPTIONS

INDICTMENTS AGAINST SOLDIERS IN COMPLAINTS CONCERNING INCIDENTS IN THE WEST BANK SINCE 2022²⁵

1. **Offense:** Abuse of authority with a conspirator under Section 68 of the Military Justice Law and Section 29(b) of the Penal Law.

Outcome: probation, reprimand and fine.

In July 2022, indictments were served against two officers in the Nahal reconnaissance battalion following a 2020 incident in which soldiers hid IEDs made with stun grenades in Kafr Qadum.²⁶ The company commander, Major H.H.T. authorized Captain T.C. to make IEDs and place them in Kafr Qadum for the purpose of “detering rioters.” On the night of August 19-20, 2020, a military force under the command of Captain T.C. placed three IEDs in the village. The devices were made of metal ammunition cases laid on top of the levers of two stun grenades, and covered in rocks, which, if removed, would launch the grenades. The IEDs were covered in camouflage mesh, a roll of toilet paper wrapped in black tape and some strings. Two of the IEDs exploded and the third was defused by a military force following a Facebook post about a Palestinian being injured in an IED explosion. Major H.H.T. was convicted of abuse of authority with a conspirator and sentenced to probation, a reprimand, and a fine of 1,500 ILS (roughly 410 USD). Captain T.C. was convicted of abuse of authority with a conspirator and sentenced to probation and a fine of 1,000 ILS (roughly 270 USD).

2. **Offense:** Looting under Section 74 of the Military Justice Law misconduct under Section 130 of the Military Justice Law.

Outcome: 135 days in prison, probation, demotion and compensation to the victim.

In September 2022, an indictment was filed against a soldier,²⁷ alleging that, on May 15, 2022, as part of a commando unit, he stole a cell phone during the arrest of a Palestinian from the town of Beit Ummar. The soldier was convicted of looting and misconduct and sentenced to 135 days in prison, probation, and a demotion to the

25 Details of indictments filed in 2018-2021 appear in a previous publication by Yesh Din: Yesh Din, [Data sheet: Law enforcement against Israeli soldiers suspected of harming Palestinians and their property - Summary of figures for 2017-2021](#) (December 2022).

26 Court-Martial Case **South (District) File 197/22**.

27 Court-Martial Case **Central (District) 190/22**.

rank of private. He was also ordered to pay 1,500 ILS (roughly 410 USD) compensation to the victim.

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3. **Offense:** Damage to property with a conspirator under Section 70 of the Military Justice Law and Section 29(b) of the Penal Law, misconduct under Section 130 of the Military Justice Law.

Outcome: 30 days of military community service, probation, demotion and compensation to the victim.

In December 2022, two indictments were filed against two soldiers following an incident from March 2022.²⁸ According to the indictments, when troops entered the village of Sinjil, the two soldiers in question entered a car lot belonging to a local resident and smashed the windows and windshields of several parked cars. The incident was captured on security cameras and publicized. The two soldiers were convicted of property damage and misconduct and sentenced to 30 days in prison to be served as military community service, probation and a demotion to the rank of private. They were also ordered to pay 1,500 ILS (roughly 410 USD) compensation to the victim.²⁹

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4. **Offense:** Willful damage with a conspirator motivated by racism or hostility towards the public due to religion, religious affiliation or ethnic origin under sections 452, 29 and 144 of the Penal Law, weapons offenses with a conspirator (manufacture), under sections 144(b2), 29 and 144 of the Penal Law.

Outcome: 15-25 months in prison, compensation and demotion.

In December 2022 and January 2023, indictments were filed against three armored corps soldiers following a string of offenses from November 2022.³⁰ According to the indictments, the three took part in attacks on innocent Palestinians to avenge a body snatching incident in which Palestinians from Jenin took the body of a deceased Druze teenager from Israel. The three soldiers threw stones and glass bottles at the home of a Palestinian living near the post where they served in the Bethlehem area. One of

28 Court-Martial Case **Central (District) 324/22**.

29 Another indictment was filed in March 2022 against a soldier from the Valley Lions Battalion, following an investigation from 2021. According to the indictment, the soldier was charged with the offense of causing injury, under Section 334 of the Penal Law, after on July 30, 2021, while serving as a squad commander, he attacked a Palestinian citizen of Israel at Lido Junction in the Jordan Valley, striking him forcefully with the barrel of his gun. This case was not included in the data because, according to the army's response, the victim was an Israeli citizen. Court-Martial Case **Central (District) 79/22**.

30 Court-Martial Case **South (District) 378/22**.

the soldiers filmed the acts and sent the videos to his friends. The three later made an IED, detonated it and threw it at the home of the same Palestinian, starting a fire near a gas tank. The three were convicted as part of a plea bargain of willful damage with a conspirator motivated by racism or hostility towards the public due to religion, religious affiliation or ethnic origin, weapons offenses with a conspirator (manufacture), and attempted willful damage using explosives with a conspirator. The military court sentenced the three to 25, 22, and 15 months in prison (respectively), payment of compensation in the amounts of 2,000-4,000 ILS (roughly 560-1120 USD), and a demotion to the rank of private.

5. **Offense:** Willful damage under Section 452 of the Penal Law. Disgraceful conduct under Section 129 of the Military Justice Law.

Outcome: 12 days in prison, probation and a fine.

In April 2023, an indictment was filed against a soldier following an incident from May 2022. According to the indictment, the soldier vandalized a Palestinian's vehicle after it was confiscated by the army, near the Herodion military post.³¹ The indicted soldier asked another soldier who was with him to film him committing the acts. He threw a large rock at the car's windshield, breaking it, and proceeded to kick the car and throw stones at it, causing damage. The soldier was convicted of disgraceful conduct and sentenced to 12 days in prison, probation and a 1,000 ILS (roughly 560 USD) fine.

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31 Court-Martial Case **Homefront (District) 13/23**.