

DATA SHEET, DECEMBER 2025

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

YESH DIN MONITORING DATA 2005-2025

- **93.6%** of all investigation files monitored by Yesh Din concerning ideologically motivated crime committed by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank (“settler violence”) opened by the Israel Police since 2005 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 **82%** of these cases
- Since 2005, only **3%** of the investigation files opened into ideologically motivated crimes committed against Palestinians led to full or partial convictions
- Mistrust in the Israeli authorities: since 2023, **58.3%** of Palestinian crime victims chose not to exercise their right to file a police complaint against Israelis who harmed them
- Alongside the ongoing failure to address ideologically motivated crime, **dozens** of organized, mass attacks perpetrated by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank have been documented in recent years

Ideologically motivated violence by Israeli citizens against Palestinians has reached a record high over the past two years; attacks against Palestinians and their property, some deadly, throughout the West Bank now occur daily. The incessant accumulation of incidents has made this phenomenon, known as settler violence, more central to the Israeli public and worldwide. Yet settler violence is not new: ideologically motivated crime by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank, aimed at taking over land and achieving political objectives, has always been a part of the Israeli settlement enterprise in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) with varying levels of intensity.

Since 2005, Yesh Din has documented offenses committed by Israeli civilians, settlers and others, against Palestinians or their property in the West Bank, and helping crime victims file complaints with the Israel Police if they seek to do so. These violent acts are

perpetrated daily throughout the West Bank: on farmland, roads, 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.

This data sheet summarizes over two decades of documenting and monitoring the outcomes of investigations into ideologically motivated offenses perpetrated by Israelis against Palestinians. The findings reveal that the State of Israel breaches its obligation under Israeli and international law to protect Palestinians in the West Bank from harm. 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 does not result from oversight or lack of resources but rather reflects a consistent policy that permeates every aspect of Israeli law enforcement agencies' response to ideologically motivated crime by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank. From ineffective prevention of violence against Palestinians and even aiding this violence in practice; through creating barriers for Palestinians who seek to file complaints; inadequate police investigations and a near zero indictment rate; and finally, lenient sentences in the rare cases in which violent settlers were convicted. All these lead to a lack of deterrence for Israelis who perpetrate violence against Palestinians. As a result, Palestinians, the local residents of the OPT governed by an oppressive apartheid regime, are left defenseless against harassment and attacks by Israeli settlers who are privileged by Israel's apartheid system.

This systemic failure has persisted for over two decades, proving that the State of Israel normalizes and supports ideologically motivated violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank both as a matter of policy and practice. This is because settler violence serves the State's objectives of expanding Israel's control over the occupied territory while forcibly displacing Palestinians from their land.

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

One of the main features of Israel's 58-year occupation is its settlement enterprise, geared towards land takeover and dispossessing Palestinians. Officially, the State of Israel pursues this policy by way of military orders that close off areas, or by declaring state land and then allocating this land to benefit the Israeli settlements. It also utilizes planning and building proceedings that consistently demolish Palestinian construction built out of necessity without permits, while promoting planning and development nearly exclusively to benefit Israelis.

Israel's policy of taking over Palestinian land is directly linked to settler violence. This violence complements the State's actions without requiring Israel to explicitly declare it as such or take formal responsibility for the forcible transfer of Palestinian communities achieved by terrorizing, physically harming, damaging property and continuously disrupting the lives of Palestinians. In practice, Israeli citizens who exercise systematic ideologically motivated violence against Palestinians are instruments of State policy, participating in its efforts to drive Palestinians off their land and expand Israeli control over the West Bank while maintaining a semblance of the rule of law.¹

The establishment of Israel's 37th government in December 2022 reflects the institutionalized intensification of the settlement expansion policy in the West Bank, coupled with increasing support for settler violence. Upon its establishment, the government explicitly stated its aim 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 stepping up measures necessary for annexing the West Bank to Israel.²

Knesset members known for incitement and violence against Palestinians now hold senior ministers within the current government and have been promoting a policy directly legitimizing Israeli criminality in the West Bank and settler violence.³ As an

- 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).
- 2 See: Yesh Din, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Ofek Center and Breaking the Silence, [The Silent Overhaul: Changing the nature of Israeli control in the West Bank, analysis of Israel's 37th government's annexation policy and its ramifications](#), (July 2024) (hereinafter: **The Silent Overhaul**).
- 3 The Settlement Administration was established within the Ministry of Defense directly after the government was

example, Bezalel Smotrich, appointed additional minister in the Ministry of Defense and assumed responsibility for the Civil Administration, has all but halted enforcement proceedings against Israelis' unlawful construction in the West Bank.⁴ According to media reports, Itamar Ben Gvir, who was appointed Minister of National Security and is responsible for the Israel Police, ordered the police to completely refrain from enforcing the law upon Israeli citizens involved in violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.⁵ In November 2024, the commander of the SJ (Samaria & Judea) District Police Central Investigation Unit, the unit in charge of investigating and solving ideologically motivated crimes against Palestinians in the West Bank, was arrested on suspicion of deliberately preventing or sabotaging investigations into settler violence in order to appease Minister Ben Gvir and receive a promotion from him.⁶ In July 2025, incoming SJ District Police commander, Deputy Commissioner Moshe Pinchi declared that "Protecting settlement takes precedence over enforcing law and order", and that "We are here for the settlement movement."⁷ These remarks were made at the inauguration of a settler volunteer unit tasked with protecting the settlements, another measure towards building and arming settler militias. This is a grave and extremely worrying indication of the police's function, and corresponds to the data collected by Yesh Din regarding the Israel Police's failure to prevent and investigate incidents of violence by settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank. David Zini's appointment as Chief of the Shin Bet, Israel's internal security agency, responsible also for handling terrorism by Jewish citizens, is another reason for concern. Zini was appointed despite his well-known views, which are affiliated with fundamentalist, messianic movements.⁸

formed. Subordinate to Minister Smotrich, this agency oversees most areas of civilian affairs in the West Bank, including law enforcement against illegal construction. Concurrently, 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. For further reading see: [The Silent Overhaul](#).

- 4 Hagar Shezaf, "[Since Smotrich Appointment, Israel Nearly Stopped Enforcing Law on Illegal Settlement Construction](#)", **Haaretz English website**, July 2, 2023.
- 5 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).
- 6 Liran Tamari and Elisha Ben Kimon, "[Non-Arrest of Jewish Terror Suspects, Update on Undercover Investigation: Allegations against Central Unit Commander and IPS Commissioner](#)", **ynet**, December 5, 2024 (Hebrew); Or Ravid and Inbal Tvizer, "[Allegations against SJ Central Unit Commander Avishai Muallem: Did not Arrest Jewish Terrorism Suspect to Climb Police Ladder](#)", **N12**, December 5, 2024 (Hebrew);
- 7 Josh Breiner, West Bank Police Chief Says Protecting Israeli Settlements More Vital Than Law and Order, **Haaretz English website**, July 10, 2025.
- 8 Hilo Glazer, "[Israel Has Seen Extremists in High Office. But Nothing Like Netanyahu's Shin Bet Pick](#)", **Haaretz English website**, September 4, 2025.

The current Israeli government has made it abundantly clear that it does not regard settler violence as a problem that needs addressing and has no intention of taking action against it. Concurrently, there has been a large increase in the scope of violent incidents perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the West Bank in the three years since the government was established. Between January and September 2023, the number of violent incidents perpetrated against Palestinians more than doubled compared with the same period in 2022.⁹ A sharp increase in the scope and severity of incidents of settler violence began as of October 7, 2023. While public attention in Israel focused on the Israeli communities targeted in the Hamas led attack, and while Israel's military began a deadly military assault on the Gaza Strip, Israeli settlers took advantage of the situation to mobilize and carry out violent raids throughout the West Bank.¹⁰ In parallel, the army drafted thousands of settlers to reserve service, emergency response teams, and "regional defense" units in the West Bank.¹¹ Thousands of incidents of violence against Palestinians and their property have since been documented, including numerous cases in which armed settlers acted violently, harassed, damaged property, assaulted and threatened Palestinian communities. These incidents led, inter alia, to 44 Palestinian communities being forcibly displaced since October 2023.¹²

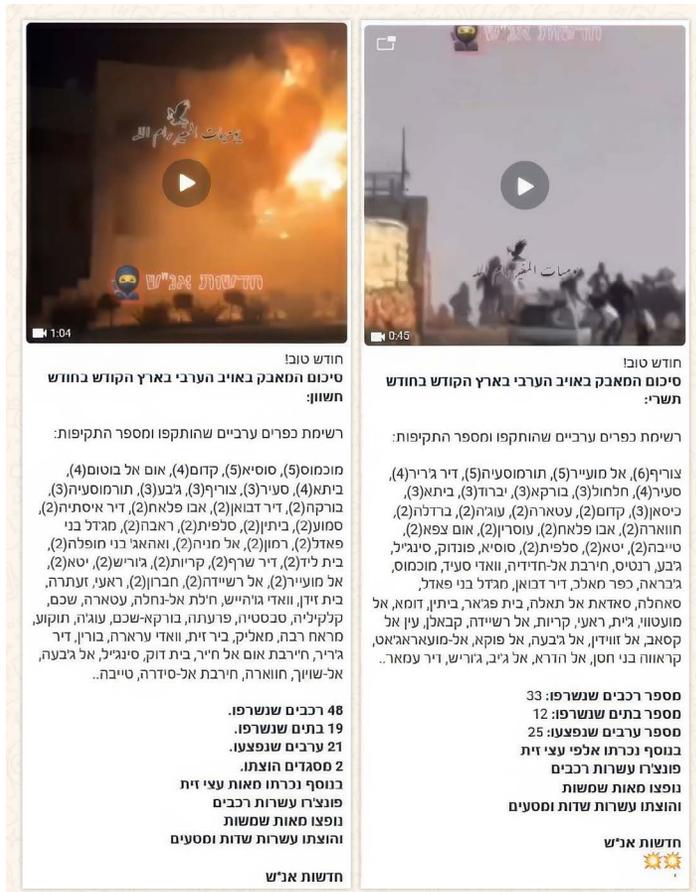
According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 1,290 incidents of Israeli settler violence perpetrated against Palestinians in the West Bank were documented in 2023. This trend continued in 2024 with 1,420 incidents of settler violence against Palestinians documented; between January and October 2024, OCHA documented 1,485 such incidents in the West Bank. Violence peaked in October 2025, at the beginning of the olive harvest, and during this period 264 incidents of settler violence were documented throughout the West Bank, an average of over eight attacks daily. This is the highest number of violent incidents perpetrated by Israeli civilians that the organization has documented since it began documenting in 2006.¹³

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- 9 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. See footnote 12.
- 10 Between October 7 and November 20, 2023, Yesh Din documented 225 incidents of settler violence in 93 Palestinian West Bank villages and towns. For a detailed account of these incidents see: [Settler Violence Incidents in the West Bank - October 7th until November 20th 2023](#).
- 11 Yesh Din, **Settlers in Uniform: Violence perpetrated by Israeli civilians in army uniform against Palestinians in the West Bank** (December 2025)
- 12 According to data collected by B'Tselem, 44 Palestinian communities were forcibly transferred since the war in Gaza began and until September 30, 2025: 2,701 people, of whom 1,226 are minors.
- 13 See OCHA data: [West Bank, Monthly Snapshot](#), October 31, 2024; [Protection of Civilians, occupied Palestinian territory, 13-26 September 2022](#); [Humanitarian Situation Update #252](#), January 2, 2025; [Humanitarian Situation Update #337](#), November 6, 2025.

Data obtained from the Israeli defense establishment also reflect a sharp rise in the number of incidents of settler violence in the West Bank. According to reports, from January and until the end of October 2025, the Israeli military documented 704 incidents of “nationalistic crime” by settlers against Palestinians, compared with 675 incidents documented during all of 2024. This means that approximately 70 attacks were carried out every month in 2025, compared with 56 attacks every month in 2024; according to the Ministry of Defense’s data, 2025 was notable for the escalation in cases of settler violence.¹⁴

The expansion in the scope of violence against Palestinians was accompanied by public statements by extremist right-wing activists boasting about grievous assaults of Palestinians. Messages are posted on WhatsApp and Telegram groups associated with right-wing activists from outposts, sometimes using members names openly and bragging about assaults, fires set and the destruction of property in Palestinian villages. For example, the WhatsApp group called Anash News (acronym of Anshei Shlomeinu, meaning our allies) self-described as a group for “news and reports on the struggle against the Arab enemy” has over 750 members. It publishes monthly summaries detailing dozens of Palestinian villages attacked, data on Palestinian casualties, the number of vehicles and homes torched, the thousands of olive trees cut down and the extensive damage to property. The existence of such groups, which operate openly and brazenly, attests to the normalization of violence against Palestinians among this Israeli community and the sense of immunity the State of Israel grants to settlers who incite violence.

¹⁴ Yaniv Kubovich, “[IDF Reports Surge in West Bank Settler Attacks Against Palestinians, Says Police and Shin Bet Looking Away Amid Political Pressure](#)”, **Haaretz English website**, November 11, 2025.



Screenshot of two posts from the Anash News WhatsApp Group, providing summaries about attacks on Palestinian communities in the West Bank.

It is important to note that despite the sharp rise in the number of incidents of ideologically motivated violence against Palestinians during recent years, systemic failure to handle cases of violence began years before the current government was formed. 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. The support extended to this violence for many years through complete and utter lack of deterrence paved the way to the escalation in the quantity and severity of violent incidents during the past three years.

ORGANIZED MASS ATTACKS

Along with the increase in the number of such incidents, in the past two years settler violence has been characterized by proliferation of organized, mass attacks on Palestinian communities. These attacks have included firing live rounds at residents, attacking homes, hurling stones, damaging property and torching vehicles and buildings. In many cases, the violence was perpetrated with army forces' backing. Rather than halting the attacks as they are obligated to by law, army troops frequently joined the attackers or provided protection by firing tear gas and live rounds at Palestinian residents who tried to defend their lives and property.

Yesh Din has documented nearly 30 incidents of organized, mass violence perpetrated in the West Bank between 2023 and November 2025; in 16 of these incidents, soldiers or police officers were reported to have been present during the attacks and assisted directly or indirectly. One such incident took place in February 2023, when hundreds of settlers raided the community of Huwarah and set fire to houses and approximately 100 vehicles; in June 2023, a group of roughly 200 settlers invaded Turmusaya. They set fire to houses and vehicles, and an Israeli police officer shot a resident of the town to death after the man tried to defend his home from the assailants;¹⁵ in April 2024, hundreds of settlers attacked several Palestinian villages, including Duma and al-Mughayir, torching homes and vehicles and attacking residents;¹⁶ 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 fatally shot a resident; and in November 2024, settlers entered the town of al-Birah at night and torched roughly 20 vehicles owned by Palestinians; in January 2025, dozens of masked settlers invaded the villages al-Funduq and Jinsafut, torched vehicles, a plant nursery and other buildings, causing extensive damage to property and attacked homes and residents with rocks;¹⁷ In March 2025, a group of settlers armed with clubs attacked residents of the village Jinba in Masafer Yatta. As a result, several of the residents were hospitalized, including a 15-year-old, who was seriously wounded. The following day, approximately 140 settlers and soldiers (some of them settlers known for perpetrating

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- 15 Hagar Shezaf, "[Palestinian Shot Dead as Dozens of Jewish Settlers Torch Homes, Vehicles in West Bank](#)", **Haaretz English website**, June 21, 2023.
- 16 Oren Ziv, "[The soldiers opened the way for the settlers': Pogroms surge across West Bank Armed Israeli settlers raided more than a dozen Palestinian communities under the army's guard, leaving a trail of death and destruction in their wake](#)", **+972 Magazine**, April 18, 2024; Documentation from the riots in al-Mughayir on [Yesh Din's Facebook page](#), 18.4.2024.
- 17 Josh Breiner and Hagar Shezaf, "[Two Israelis Severely Wounded in West Bank; Accidental Police Shooting Suspected](#)", **Haaretz English website**, January 21, 2025.

violence who are residents of the area) again raided the village, invaded homes, destroyed property, spoiled food supplies and terrorized the residents for several hours.¹⁸ In April 2025, settlers attacked the village Bardalah in the Jordan Valley, firing live ammunition and injuring several Palestinians, torched houses, vehicles and a goat pen;¹⁹ in May 2025, a group of approximately 40 settlers invaded the village Bruqin, torched five houses and five vehicles, and attacked Palestinian residents;²⁰ on June 19, 2025, dozens of settlers invaded Surif village farmland. When the residents attempted to drive them away, dozens more settlers arrived in vehicles and ATVs, masked and armed with weapons, sticks and metal rods. They attacked the Palestinian residents, throwing rocks and firing live ammunition at houses. One resident was shot to death and eight others were injured, one severely. According to Palestinians who spoke with Yesh Din, soldiers were present at the site during the entire attack and even assisted the assailants.²¹ On June 25 2025, dozens of settlers invaded Kafr Malik, throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails, torching houses and vehicles, and firing live ammunition at residents. Soldiers who came to the site opened fire and killed three residents.²²

Such mass attacks, reminiscent of pogroms in 19th century Europe or lynchings in 20th century United States, signal an escalation in settler violence. Mass mobilization demonstrates that settler violence has become organized and extensive, carried out nearly uninterrupted by Israeli authorities, who enable it in practice through army protection and providing immunity to offenders.

18 Oren Ziv, "[Israeli settlers attacked this Palestinian village — then came back in army uniform](#)", **+972 Magazine**, April 2, 2025. Nir Hasson, "[A Palestinian Boy's Detailed Drawing Exposes a Joint Campaign of Terror by Israeli Army and Settlers](#)", **Haaretz English website**, March 31, 2025.

19 Hagar Shezaf, "[Israeli Settlers Torched Homes, Goat Pen, Shot at Palestinian Residents in West Bank](#)", **Haaretz English website**, April 24, 2025.

20 Hagar Shezaf, "[The Palestinian Town Suffering a Double Rampage Following a Terrorist Attack](#)", **Haaretz English website**, May 23, 2025.

21 G. to Yesh Din, 20.8.2025, July 5, 2022.

22 Jack Khoury and Hagar Shezaf, "[Israeli Settlers Rampage Through West Bank Village: Three Palestinians Killed by IDF Fire](#)", **Haaretz English website**, June 26, 2025.

2. YESH DIN'S SAMPLE: MONITORING OF 1,750 POLICE INVESTIGATIONS SINCE 2005

Since 2005 and until the end of October 2025, Yesh Din has monitored 1,750 investigation files opened into cases of violence by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem).²³ These investigations are carried out by a division of the SJ District Police (the Israel Police district for the West Bank),²⁴ and once concluded, the Israel Police and the State Attorney's Office decide whether to serve an indictment or close the file.

The data 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 in which Yesh Din represents the victims and monitors the work of law enforcement agencies. However, the data obtained by Yesh Din over this long period in such cases constitutes an extensive and unique sample that enables an analysis of the way the Israel Police handles 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 agencies 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's crimes 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' representative, liaises between victims 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.

²³ All data in this document are updated as of October 31, 2025. During this past year, Yesh Din reviewed and verified all its data. As such, slight modifications were made to data published in previous years.

²⁴ With the exception of 15 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.

MISTRUST IN THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES

In addition to the 1,750 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. A central reason that many Palestinians harmed by offenses perpetrated by Israelis waive their rights to file complaints is that the agency tasked with processing their complaint is inaccessible and at times even places them in danger. The police stations that are supposed to process Palestinians' complaints are located in Israeli settlements and Palestinians must be escorted by police from the settlement gate to the police station. In practice, complainants often wait for hours at the Israeli settlement gate for a police escort to arrive. Even once they are allowed to enter, Palestinian victims frequently discover that there are no Arabic-speaking investigators at the station and therefore their complaints cannot be taken. Thus, victims are forced to wait for long periods and in many cases return home without having been able to file a complaint at all.

While it is allegedly possible to file a complaint at one of the District Coordination and Liaison Offices (DCO) in the West Bank, since 2023 these offices have been closed most of the time. In Yesh Din's experience many complaints filed with the Palestinian Police are not referred to Israeli investigation agencies. Due to these difficulties of filing complaints, in 2025 Yesh Din recruited a staff member responsible for accompanying Palestinian victims of crimes to police stations. The need for such assistance underscores systemic failure of Israeli law enforcement agencies.

Furthermore, in many cases, Palestinian victims of crimes committed by Israeli citizens in the West Bank are not interested in filing a complaint with the Israel Police, which is part of the oppressive regime that controls every aspect of their lives. Palestinians sometimes 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 nearly all cases in which Palestinians do not file a complaint with the police, the offense is not investigated at all.

Yesh Din documented 1,451 incidents in which Israeli citizens harmed Palestinians in the past decade, 2016-2025.²⁵ Of these 1,451 incidents, crime victims filed a complaint with the Israel Police in just 618 cases (42.6%), following which an investigation was opened. The results of these investigations are documented in this data sheet. **However, 679 of the crime victims (46.8%) chose not to file a complaint with**

25 Until 31 October 2025.

the police and the harm they suffered was never investigated.²⁶ Of these, 425 individuals expressed mistrust in the Israeli authorities and the investigation process, and 156 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 rest of the 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 profound mistrust in Israeli law enforcement agencies. 40.5% of victims of crimes in the incidents documented by Yesh Din in 2016-2022 chose not to file a complaint following harm perpetrated against them by Israeli civilians. This trend has grown since the current administration was sworn in and Itamar Ben Gvir took office as minister of national security, responsible for the Israel Police. Since the beginning of 2023 and until October 31, 2025, Yesh Din documented 513 incidents of harm to Palestinians, in 299 of which **(58.3%)** crime victims waived the right to file a complaint. The overall worsening situation in the West Bank since the war in Gaza began seems to have contributed to the fact that 2024 was a record year in terms of the rate of Palestinians who contacted Yesh Din and explicitly expressed their unwillingness to file a complaint with the Israel Police, reaching **69%** (133 of 194 incidents documented by Yesh Din). The increasing rate of Palestinian victims of crimes who waive their right to file complaints in recent years underscores that Israeli agencies' failure to enforce the law upon settlers in the West Bank has made filing a police complaint seem futile.

3. TYPES OF OFFENSES

The incidents Yesh Din documents differ in characterization and severity, yet they all point to a consistent mode of operation. Israeli citizens in the West Bank utilize various violent methods to disrupt the lives of Palestinian residents of the West Bank in order to threaten, intimidate and expel Palestinians from their land, farmland and pastureland. These acts of violence are carried out nearly everywhere, on roads and paths, farmland and even inside Palestinian communities and homes.

Criminal incidents against Palestinians can be divided into two general, main types: **violent Offenses**, including killing, assault, beating, use of firearms, stone-throwing, threats, and killing or harming animals; and **property offenses**, including torching

²⁶ In the remaining cases, crime victims opposed cooperating with Israeli authorities in principle, some encountered problems when filing complaints and thus gave up.



homes, mosques and vehicles, theft, cutting down olive trees, harming crops, vandalizing property and spraying offensive slogans (known as “Price Tag attacks”), as well as other types of harm to property by way of trespassing, invading land, fencing off land, erecting structures or preventing access to land. These offenses frequently occur simultaneously and involve both violence and damage to property. While classified separately in this data sheet, these different offenses work in combination **to achieve one central objective: taking over Palestinian land, driving away the lawful owners and expanding Israeli control over the territory through unofficial violence.**

Of all the cases investigated by the police and monitored by Yesh Din between 2005 and 2025, in 721 cases (41%) the incidents involved **violent offenses**. In 1,029 cases (59%) the incidents involved **damage to property and belongings**. In 158 incidents of the total number of files, both types of offenses occurred during the same incident.

INVESTIGATION FILES OPENED BETWEEN 2005 AND 2025, BY TYPE OF OFFENSE

721 (41%)

VIOLENCE



Of which, in 158 cases both violence and damage to property were documented during the same incident.

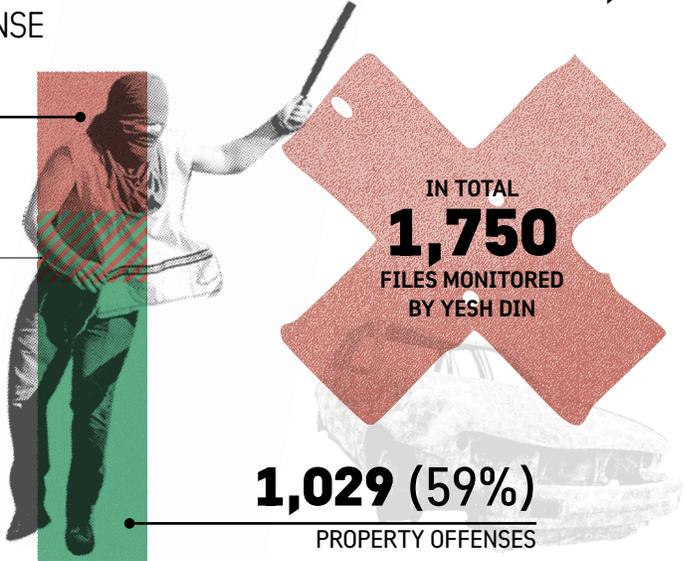


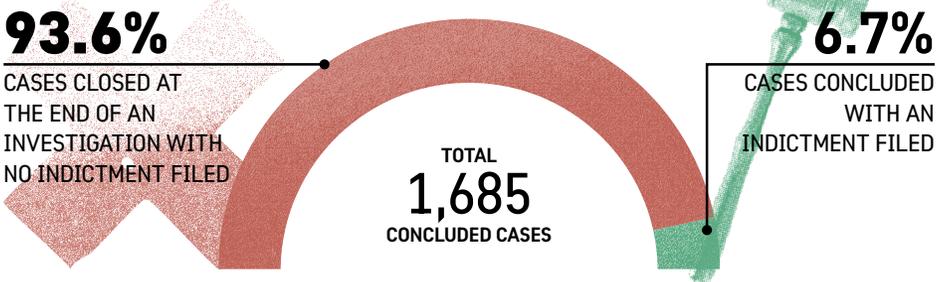
PHOTO: SHAY KNADLER

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

As of the end of October 2025, law enforcement agencies were still processing 65 of the 1,750 investigation files opened into offenses committed against Palestinians and monitored by Yesh Din. Of the 1,685 concluded investigations with outcomes known to Yesh Din:

- 1,578 cases (93.6%) were closed at the end of an investigation with no indictment filed.
- Indictments were filed in just 113 cases (6.7%)*

INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES 2005-2025



* SIX INVESTIGATION FILES (0.4%) WERE CLOSED BY THE POLICE BUT REOPENED FOLLOWING APPEALS FILED BY YESH DIN AND AN INDICTMENT WAS 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.

Law enforcement agencies 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.²⁷ 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 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 1,578 investigation files opened since 2005 and closed without an indictment, the Israel Police provided Yesh Din with the grounds for closure in 1,511 files.

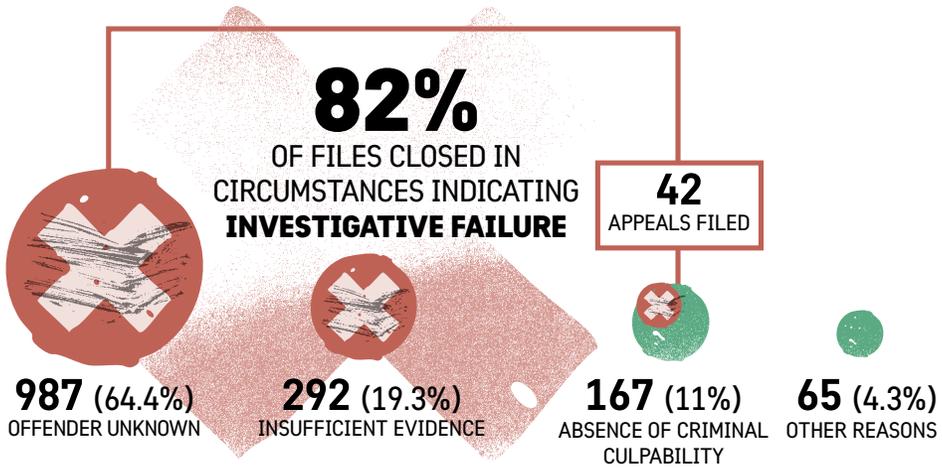
- **987** files (64.4%) were closed on grounds of **offender unknown**: in other words, the police determined a criminal offense had been committed but failed to name suspects.
- **292** files (19.3%) were closed on grounds of **insufficient evidence**: in other words, the police determined a criminal offense had been committed in those cases and had named suspects but failed to collect and consolidate sufficient evidence to prosecute.
- **167** (11%) files 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 **42 of these closed files** (roughly one quarter of the files) after determining that the investigations were not exhaustive and that the police erred in its decision to close the file.
- **65** files (4.3%) were closed on other grounds: 49 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**,²⁸ one file was closed due to **statute**

27 The Israel Police National Headquarters Ordinance lists nine possible grounds for closing or shelving investigation files. See: [Israel Police National Headquarters Ordinance 14.01.01: Complaints and other Information regarding Offenses - Reporting, Classifying and Processing](#), August 23, 2020. 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."

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

of limitations; 10 files were closed due to **investigation purview of another agency** and two files were closed due to a conditional discharge.²⁹

GROUNDS FOR CLOSURE OF INVESTIGATION FILES 2005–2025



Analyzing the circumstances in which investigation files were closed reveals that **the police failed in the investigation of 82% of files opened since 2005 and concluded with known outcomes (1,321 of 1,618 files).**³⁰ Of the closed files, 1,279 were closed on the grounds of offender unknown or insufficient evidence, indicating the police found that an offense had indeed been committed, but failed to name suspects or collect enough evidence to prosecute. In addition to these, Yesh Din appealed the closure of 42 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 included in the count of cases closed in a manner indicating investigative failure. **The high rate of failure points to longstanding systemic and deliberate failure in the State of Israel’s responses to ideologically motivated crime against Palestinians in the West Bank for over twenty years.**

29 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.

30 Of the 1,685 concluded investigation files, including those that ended with an indictment, the Israel Police did not provide the grounds for closure of 67 files and it is therefore impossible to determine whether closure of these files indicates failure. These 67 files have been omitted from the count. Thus, in a total of 1,618 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

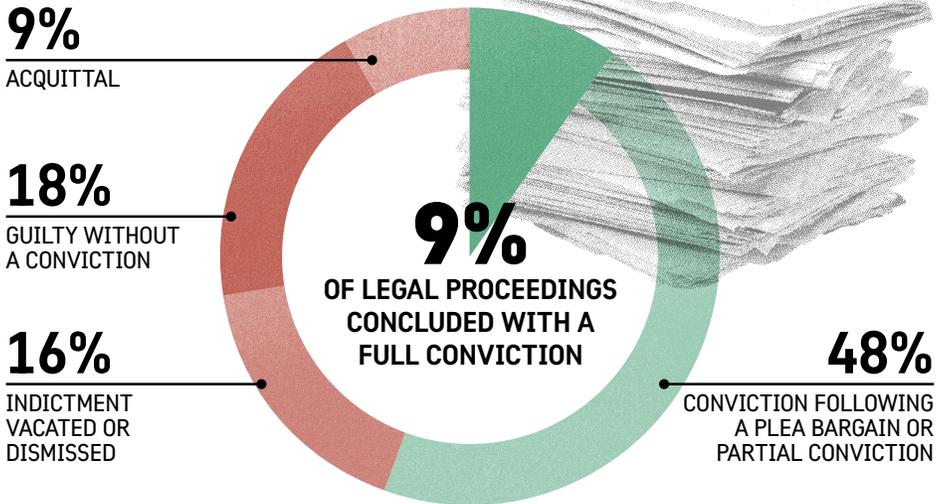
This section addresses the outcomes of the legal proceedings in the few cases (6.7% of cases for which processing was concluded) in which police investigations monitored by Yesh Din led to indictments.³¹

The data presented here concern 113 indictments filed in the 1,750 investigations monitored by Yesh Din since 2005. As of the end of October 2025, legal proceedings are still ongoing in six cases, and in seven other cases proceedings have been concluded but no information has been provided regarding the outcome. Therefore, it is possible to present data concerning the outcome of legal proceedings in 100 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% of concluded legal proceedings**).
- **48 proceedings (48%) ended with a conviction following a plea bargain or a partial conviction.** This means 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 (18%) 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 (16%) ended with the indictment vacated or dismissed** after being filed with the court by the prosecution.
- **9 proceedings (9%) ended in the defendant or defendants' acquittal.**

³¹ 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 (2001), and Yesh Din's legal team, counsel on their behalf, monitors the legal proceedings and their outcomes.

OUTCOMES OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN YESH DIN CASES 2005–2025



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, a regime engaging in the crime of apartheid as defined in international humanitarian 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 suffer from systemic discrimination in rights and resources and are governed by a repressive regime that is forced upon them.³²

According to international law, Palestinian residents of the OPT are considered “protected persons” and Israel is obligated to protect them and their property.³³ 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 conduct. However, **the data collected by Yesh Din for two decades reflect that Israel is unwilling to prevent or handle ideologically motivated crime perpetrated by Israelis**, proving that the Israeli law enforcement system fails to uphold its duty to protect Palestinians from violence perpetrated by Israelis.

³² Yesh Din, [The Israeli Occupation of the West Bank and the Crime of Apartheid: Legal Opinion](#) (June 2020);

³³ **Convention (IV) respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land and its annex: Regulations concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land**, The Hague (1907), Article 46; **Fourth Geneva Convention** (1949)

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 (57 of 1,685 concluded investigation files with a known outcome, including the results of indictments). This low conviction rate, which has persisted for over twenty years, demonstrates that Israel's failing enforcement policy is not an oversight but rather evidence that the State intentionally enables the violence perpetrated against defenseless civilians, and sometimes collaborates with it in practice. The absence of law enforcement upon ideologically motivated crime against Palestinians abolishes any mechanisms for deterrence and establishes this violence as an effective measure for expanding dispossession and Israeli control in the occupied territory.

The conclusion arising from the data presented here is that **the State of Israel and its law enforcement agencies in the West Bank are directly responsible for the violence Israelis perpetrate against Palestinians.**

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