



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Yesh Din & Physicians for Human Rights Publish a New Report on Forced Displacement of Palestinian Shepherding Communities in the West Bank

Displaced Communities, Forgotten People is the product of a joint project launched by Yesh Din and Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI). The report addresses the events that led to the forced displacement of hundreds of Palestinian families from their homes in the West Bank. In less than two years, about 100,000 dunams of land east of the Allon Road (northeast of Ramallah) have been almost completely emptied of the Palestinians who lived on it for decades.

This was not a voluntary departure but a forcible transfer carried out by Israel affected by a combination of factors: years of institutional oppression, daily physical violence, invasive psychological terror, and catastrophic economic harm. All of these led to a loss of personal security, an ongoing erosion of community resilience, and a breakdown

of the social cohesion of seven Palestinian shepherding communities, which were forced out of the lands that were their home.

The Israeli authorities do not recognize these communities and have, for years, harassed and abused their residents. However, the turning point came after settlers began establishing shepherding outposts near the communities that they sought to displace. The escalation of violence originating from these outposts over the past two years has created a coercive environment unconducive to life for Palestinian shepherding communities, effectively forcing them out of their homes.

While the State of Israel formally distances itself from the settlers' acts, claiming the outposts are illegal, in practice, it supports and funds them. Yesh Din described how Israel supports the settler shepherding farms by providing them allocations of pastureland, financial grants, and infrastructure in our 2022 report, [Plundered Pastures](#). It then reaps the benefits of their aggression towards Palestinians, which helps achieve the state's goals. In this way, Israel consistently and systematically violates the human rights of Palestinian shepherding communities in the West Bank, including the rights to life, personal security, health, freedom of movement, property, livelihood, and dignity.

Displaced Communities, Forgotten People is a case study that focuses on a limited area, but the same Israeli policies and settlement methods are implemented in other parts of the West Bank. There is, therefore, concern that these patterns and practices, which have resulted in the forcible transfer of these Palestinian communities, will evolve into a long-term government strategy of ethnically cleansing Palestinians, at least in Area C, which accounts for 60% of the West Bank's territory.

The main conclusion of Displaced Communities, Forgotten People is that Israel is responsible for the commission of the war crime of the forcible transfer of Palestinians in the West Bank. This crime is committed with the state's support, by its agents or citizens. Moreover, the state's deep involvement in the commission of these crimes, its systemic nature, and its replication in various locations, lead to the grim conclusion that in certain parts of the West Bank, the State of Israel is implementing practices of ethnic cleansing.



Yesh Din and Physicians for Human Rights Israel call on the international community to take active, effective measures against the State of Israel and demand it fulfill its legal obligation to protect the occupied population, with an emphasis on shepherding communities. Israel must guarantee the basic rights

of Palestinian residents, stop the forcible transfer, remove the violent outposts, and provide Palestinian shepherding communities with conditions for a safe return home.

Read the full report

Read the executive summary

Join Our WhatsApp Group for Diplomatic Updates

We invite you to join our WhatsApp group for diplomatic updates, in which we send periodic updates on important developments in the West Bank easily and conveniently. It is a 'silent' group, meaning only the administrators can post messages, and there are no conversations or debates. You are welcome to join and share the link with colleagues.

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