



Yesh Din
Volunteers for Human Rights

Data Sheet: Law Enforcement on Israeli Civilians in the West Bank, 2005-2021



A settler attack near Surif, West Bank. November 2021. Photo: Shay Kendler

[Click here for the new datasheet](#)

Yesh Din has released our [newest data sheet](#) presenting the most updated findings regarding Israel Police investigations of offenses committed by Israeli civilians – settlers and others – against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank.

The data presented confirms that the Israel police has made no improvement in

investigating cases of ideological crime committed against Palestinians or in holding Israeli offenders accountable.

The data sheet analyzes 1,395 investigations conducted between 2005 and 2021 and monitored by Yesh Din.

Based on this large sample of cases:

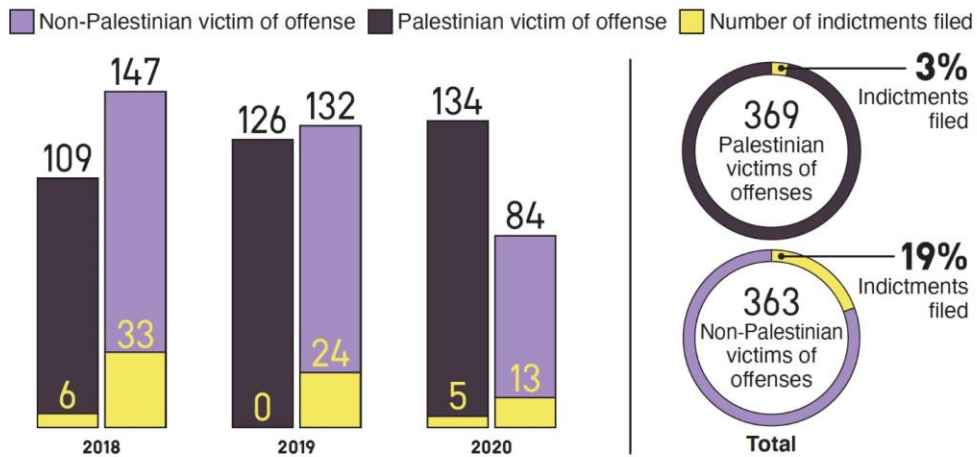
- 92% of all investigative files were closed without an indictment filed.
- The Israel Police failed in the investigation of 81% of investigative files opened between 2005-2021 concerning Israelis who harmed Palestinians and their property.
- Analyzing the circumstances in which investigation files are closed reveals that the police have failed in the investigation of 81% of files opened since 2005 which have since concluded and the results of which are known.
- In total, since 2005 approximately 3% of investigation files (52 files) opened following ideologically motivated offenses Israelis committed against Palestinians in the West Bank led to convictions.

The following statistic has become available following a successful Freedom of Information petition filed by Yesh Din in 2020 demanding that the police document the nationality of crime victims, and concerns all investigation files opened concerning disturbances and Jewish nationalistic crime in the West Bank:

- **The chance that Israeli law enforcement agencies will file an indictment against an Israeli who harmed a non-Palestinian person (19%) (Israeli security personnel and others) is six times higher than the chance of filing an indictment against an Israeli who harmed a Palestinian (3%).**

[Click for yesterday's Haaretz report on settler violence and impunity based on Yesh Din's data](#)

Indictments filed against Israelis in investigations in which the victim is Palestinian compared to when the victim is not Palestinian



The chance that Israeli law enforcement authorities will file an indictment against an Israeli who harmed a non-Palestinian in the West Bank (Israeli security personnel and others) is six times higher than the chance they will file an indictment against an Israeli who harmed a Palestinian.

This new data exposes law enforcement authorities' discrimination in the occupied territories. When an Israeli commits a crime against a non-Palestinian, meaning Israeli security forces personnel or others, it is often followed by effective investigations by police and indictments filed. In contrast, when violence is directed at Palestinians, Israeli law enforcement agencies are negligent at best in their treatment and fail to prosecute offenders.

Yesh Din concludes:

The State of Israel is evading its duty to protect Palestinians in the West Bank from Israelis who seek to harm them. Long-term monitoring of the outcomes of investigations into ideological offenses committed by Israelis shows that Israeli law enforcement agencies leave Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories defenseless to attacks and harassment perpetrated by Israeli settlers.

Background:

For over 54 years Israel has exercised control over the West Bank through military occupation. According to international law, Israel is obligated to protect the residents of the occupied territory. Monitoring Israeli authorities' treatment of offenses committed by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank is uniquely significant because these offenses are perpetrated by citizens of the occupying country against the population living under occupation.

Acts of violence and damage to property are usually perpetrated in areas where Israeli civilians seek to take over land and dispossess Palestinians of their land. Israeli settler violence also seeks to terrorize and spread fear, oppress, and disrupt Palestinians' daily lives. In this way, separate offenses committed by individuals combined form a system of ideological crime that is designed to expand Israeli control in the West Bank.

Yesh Din's long-term monitoring demonstrates that Israel's law enforcement authorities systemically and pervasively fail to uphold Israel's duty under international law to protect Palestinians from settler violence. Failure to enforce the law allows ideological crime in the West Bank to persist and by doing so, Israel is normalizing and extending its support for such violence.

[Click here for the new datasheet](#)

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