



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Yesh Din releases 'Investigating Themselves – Results of the military law enforcement system's examination of incidents of Palestinians killed and wounded in the Gaza Strip during "Operation Guardian of the Walls" (May 2021)'

*May 2022 marked one year since "Operation Guardian of the Walls"; data reveals that, a year later, only **one** incident led to the opening of an investigation.*



An explosion is seen following Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City, May 14, 2021. Photo: Mohammad Zaanoun, ActiveStills.

Yesh Din released "[Investigating Themselves](#)", a datasheet which explores the results of the military law enforcement system's examination of the killings and woundings of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip during May 2021.

Background:

On May 10, 2021, Israel launched "Operation Guardian of the Walls", during which, for 11 days, Israel bombed hundreds of locations in the Gaza Strip, killing 240 people, including at least 59 children. Thousands of people were injured and tens of thousands were left homeless after having their homes partially or completely destroyed in Israeli airstrikes.

Key figures:

The data presented in the reveals that:

- 84 incidents in which Palestinians were killed and/or wounded were transferred to the "General Staff Mechanism for Fact Finding Assessments" (FFA Mechanism).
- An investigation was opened into just one incident.
- 25 incidents (approximately 30%) were closed without investigation after review by the FFA Mechanism.
- 69% of all incidents transferred to the FFA Mechanism are still in the process of review.

The culture of impunity:

The data revealed further strengthens the findings presented in Yesh Din's previous reports and research on [Israel's failure to investigate suspected breaches of international law by members of its security forces](#). The Israeli law enforcement system is unable and/or unwilling to investigate offenses against Palestinians, including suspected war crimes, swiftly and effectively, thereby granting the officials who formulated, approved, ordered and executed Israel's bombardment policy in the Gaza Strip de-facto immunity.

Conclusion:

Israel's lethal policy of attacking homes and residential buildings in the Gaza Strip, coupled with its military legal system's incapacity to investigate effectively, result in a dangerous reality in which residents of the besieged Gaza Strip lack any protection, their lives forsaken to military strikes and arbitrary harm.

Yesh Din asserts that an impartial investigation of suspected war crimes is critical for halting this state of affairs and ending the loss of human life that continues thanks to the culture of impunity and lack of accountability in Israel.

[Click here to read the full position paper](#)

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