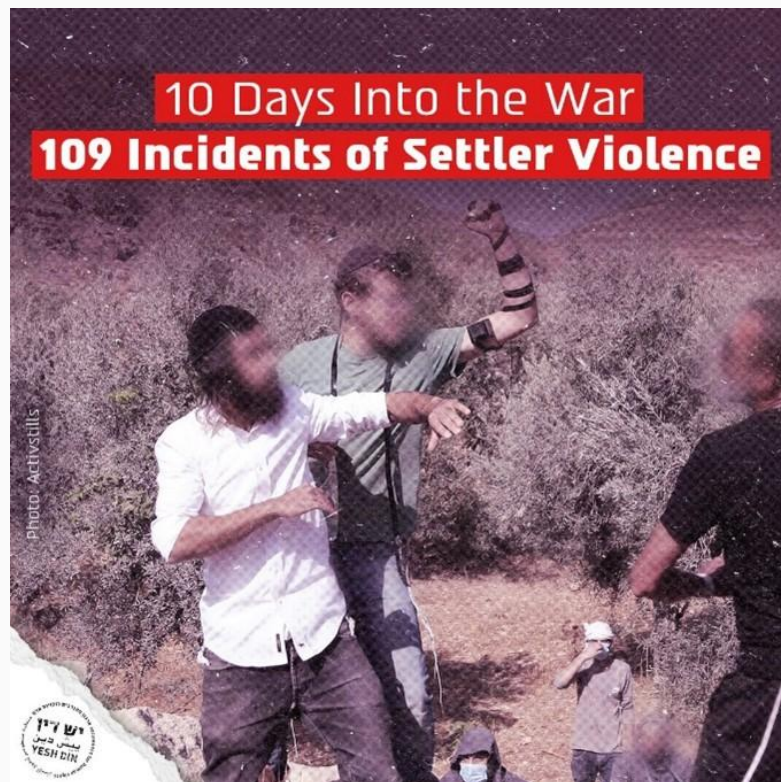




Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Data on Settler Violence During the War, New Report: Settlers in Uniform & New Datasheet: Law Enforcement on Settler Violence



Under the auspices of the current war between Israel, the United States, and Iran, settler violence against Palestinians across the West Bank is intense and fatal, with the attackers' stated goal being to forcibly displace communities and seize large territories.

In the first ten days after Israel's attack on Iran, **109 separate incidents** of settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank were reported (roughly an average of 11 per day). The incidents occurred in **62 Palestinian communities**,

and included shootings, physical assaults, property damage, and threats.

Five Palestinians were shot and killed by settlers in the West Bank during this period. At least three of them were shot by settlers in uniform. To the best of Yesh Din's knowledge, none of the shooters have been arrested. The data is based on cross-checking publications and public reports from various sources

These figures reflect a worrying but not surprising escalation, given the government's policies and the systematic, deliberate failure of security forces to protect Palestinians, and, instead, support and back violence. Violent settlers serve as the government's executive branch in the West Bank. These criminal and deadly attacks are carried out with the backing of the state and almost complete impunity, advancing Israel's objective of forcibly displacing Palestinians and annexing the West Bank.

This is clearly shown in **two new Yesh Din reports**: "[Settlers in Uniform](#)" and the "[Data Sheet: Law Enforcement on Israeli Civilians in the West Bank \(Settler Violence\), 2005-2025](#)."

New Report: Settlers in Uniform

On February 25, 2026, Yesh Din published a new report - **Settlers in Uniform: Violence by Israeli civilians in military uniforms against Palestinians in the West Bank**.

The report presents and analyzes how Israeli civilians use the power and authority that accompany military uniforms and weapons to commit offenses and harm Palestinians.

Settlers in Uniform

Violence Against Palestinians by Israelis
in Military Uniforms



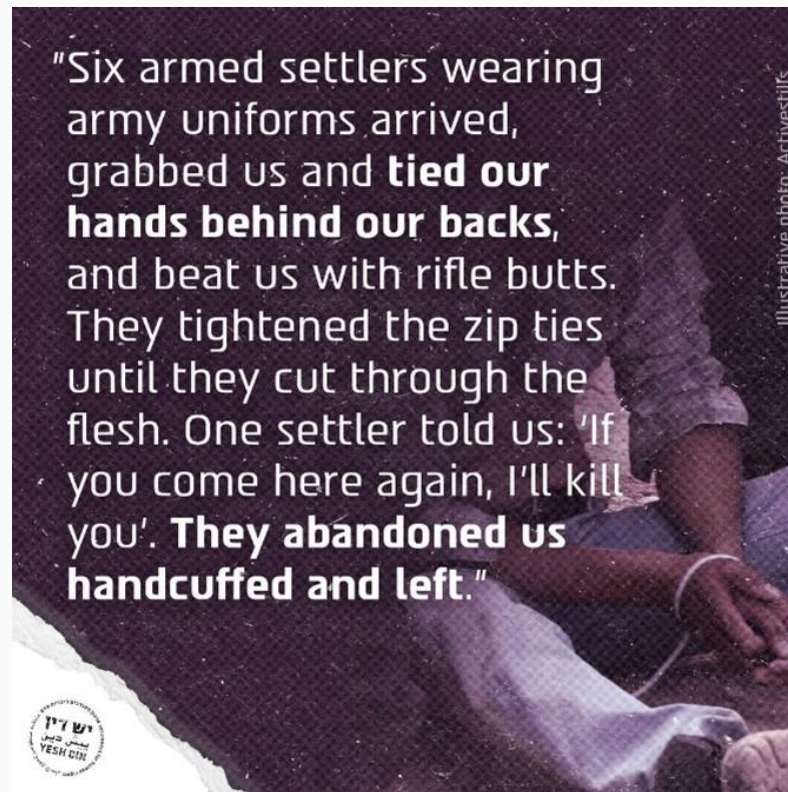
Israel has equipped thousands of settlers with weapons and military uniforms, giving them lethal power without proper oversight mechanisms. Shooting, violent attacks, trespassing, theft, and damage to property are just some of the examples of incidents in which Israeli civilians have committed offenses against Palestinians under the cover of weapons and military uniforms over the past two years. These abuses were perpetrated by settlers-soldiers while on military duty in violation of authority, by settlers-soldiers on leave outside official duties, or by settlers in uniform who acted on their own initiative. In many cases, those actions lead to devastating outcomes, as we have seen in the killings and forced displacement that occurred over the past two weeks.

Regional defense units, civilian security coordinators, and emergency response teams are part of the civilian-military security apparatus of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The report presents and analyzes how Israeli citizens abuse the power and authority that come with military uniforms and firearms to commit

offenses and harm Palestinians. While the report does not claim to analyze Israel's security doctrine or examine its merit, it points to the dangerous implications of this system and the lack of oversight.

Members of the security forces wear uniforms to identify themselves and provide visual confirmation of their authority. They are supposed to act in the name of the law and in accordance with the military commander's obligations under the laws of occupation. On the other hand, when a citizen wears a uniform without permission or acts outside the scope of his authority while in uniform, he literally takes the law into his own hands, assumes the appearance of military authority, and abuses the power represented by the uniform. In addition, this civilian commits a criminal offense of impersonating a soldier.

The incidents documented in the report are only a tiny sample of a phenomenon that has many facets, revealing the way in which settlers in uniform harm Palestinians: a soldier on leave who decides to wear a uniform and use a weapon; Civilian Security Coordinator who operates outside the scope of his guard area; soldiers of the Regional Defense Units who operate without authority; or settlers posing as soldiers. In practice, it is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish between a soldier of the Reserve Corps, a member of the Emergency Response Team, or a settler who has independently decided to wear a uniform. It is certainly impossible to tell whether they are a soldier on active reserve duty or a civilian who has put on a uniform and decided to act independently. Moreover, for the Palestinian victims of the offense, when the person who harmed them is wearing an Israeli uniform, that person represents the law in the occupied territory.



Israeli authorities, for their part, encourage 'settler in uniform' violence against Palestinians not only by distributing uniforms and firearms, but also by failing to enforce the law on offenders. When complaints are filed against these assailants, law enforcement authorities usually attempt to evade their responsibility to investigate the incident. The Military Advocate General's Corps claims the violence was not carried out during military activity and, therefore, the incident does not fall under its jurisdiction. The Israel Police, on the other hand, closes investigation files or claims it has no jurisdiction to investigate because people in military uniform perpetrated the acts and therefore should be investigated by the military law enforcement authorities.

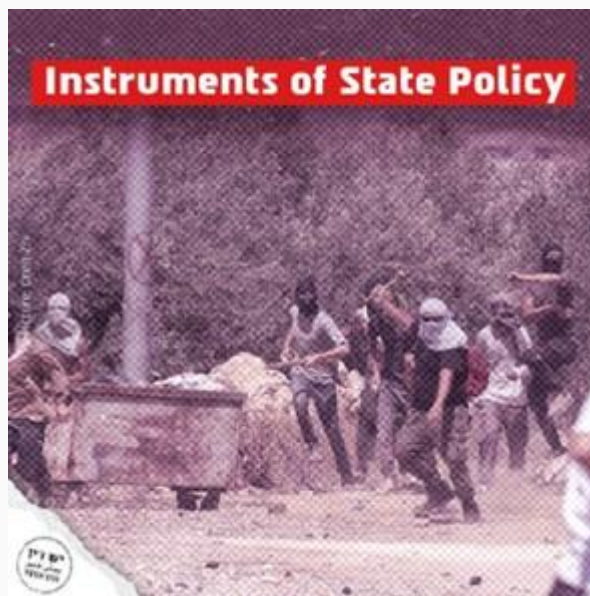
Although many of the settlers who were recruited at the beginning of the war into emergency response teams and regional defense battalions are no longer on active reserve duty, the military has allowed them to retain the firearms and uniforms, advancing two outcomes Israel seeks. In addition to the original goal of regional defense, whereby these settlers serve as auxiliary forces assisting security personnel in protecting Israeli civilians living in West Bank settlements, the settlers' criminal use of military-issued firearms and uniforms to harm Palestinians and drive them off their land contributes to Israel's broader objective

of seizing more land in the West Bank and annexing the territory without its Palestinian residents.

'Settlers in Uniform' demonstrates that Israel consistently, and as a matter of policy, enables the deliberate blurring of lines between settlers and military forces and promotes violent actions against Palestinian civilians in the West Bank by militias working in the service of settlement interests. These practices contradict Israel's obligations under international law as the occupying power in the West Bank and gravely violate the human rights of Palestinians living there.

[Read the Full Report Here](#)

New Data Sheet: Law Enforcement on Israeli Civilians in the West Bank (Settler violence), 2005-2025



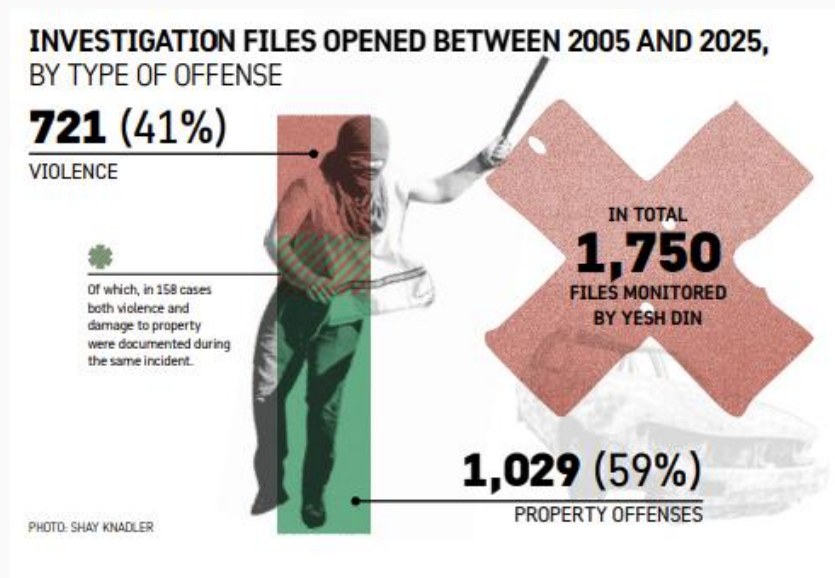
On February 15, 2026, Yesh Din published a new Data Sheet: Law Enforcement on Israeli Citizens in the West Bank (Settler Violence), 2005-2025, was published, summarizing over twenty years of Yesh Din's efforts to document and

monitor law enforcement regarding ideologically motivated offenses committed by Israeli citizens against Palestinians in the West Bank, a phenomenon often referred to as "settler violence."

The main findings of the data indicate a systematic and ongoing failure by Israeli law enforcement authorities to address the ideologically motivated offenses of Israeli citizens against Palestinians in the West Bank.

The datasheet reviews the results of police investigations and criminal proceedings regarding incidents of Israeli offences against Palestinians. It provides a detailed analysis of the organization's data collected since 2005. The data are based on the work of our field team gathering testimonies, the relentless efforts of the Legal Department, and ongoing monitoring of Israeli law enforcement agencies' performance and their willingness to enforce the law, as part of their duty to protect Palestinians in the West Bank from harm, as required by Israeli and international law.

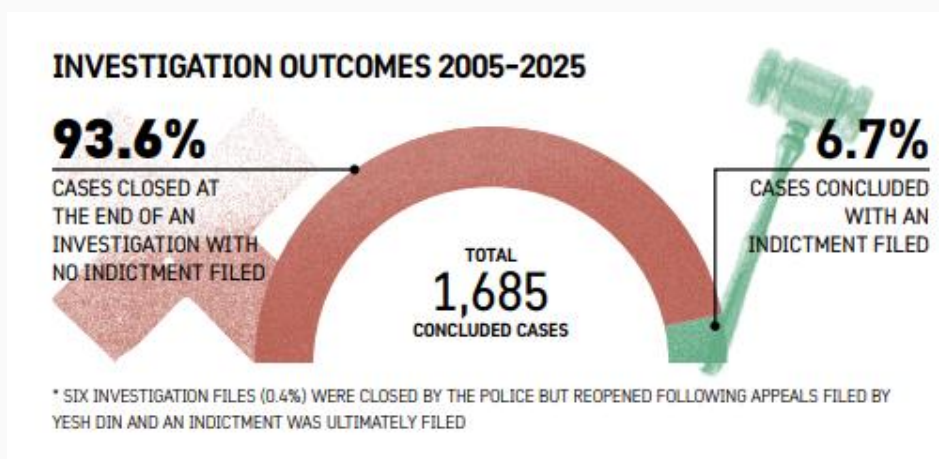
From 2005 to the end of October 2025, Yesh Din monitored 1,750 investigation cases opened following offenses committed by Israeli citizens against Palestinians in the West Bank (not including East Jerusalem).



The data Yesh Din has collected over the years in cases like this is a significant and unique sample, which allows for analyzing how the Israeli police handle ideologically motivated offenses by Israeli citizens against Palestinians in the West Bank.

Yesh Din monitoring data 2005-2025 Key figures:

- **93.6% of all investigation files monitored** by Yesh Din concerning ideologically motivated offenses 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 shows that **the police failed in the investigation of 82% of these cases.**
- **Since 2005, just 3% of the investigation files opened** into ideologically motivated crimes committed against Palestinians **have led to full or partial convictions.**
- Yesh Din 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 riots and assisted the attack directly or indirectly.



The establishment of Israel's 37th government in December 2022 reflected an institutionalized deepening of the policy of settlement expansion in the West Bank, as well as a deepening backing for settler violence.

At the same time, there has been a sharp rise in the number of Palestinian casualties who have chosen not to file complaints with Israeli law enforcement authorities. Since the start of 2023, Yesh Din has documented 513 cases of Palestinians being abused by Israeli citizens. In 299 of these cases (**58.3%**), the victims decided not to file complaints, compared to 40.5% during 2016 to 2022. This trend shows a growing and serious lack of trust in Israeli law enforcement.

The fact that there has been a systemic failure to address ideological violence by Israeli citizens against Palestinians for more than two decades shows that the failed enforcement policy is not simply a failure but also evidence that the State of Israel intentionally allows violence against a defenseless population and sometimes even collaborates with it. This is because such violence advances the state's goals of expanding Israeli control in the West Bank through threats, creating fear, and committing violence while maintaining the appearance of the rule of law.

The conclusion from the analysis of data collected since 2005 is that **the State of Israel and its law enforcement agencies in the West Bank are directly responsible for violence committed by Israelis against Palestinians.**

[Read the full Data Sheet Here](#)

[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.

[Join Yesh Din's new WhatsApp group](#)

Follow Yesh Din on Twitter

For more information contact: Shira Livne at Shiral@yesh-din.org
For media inquiries contact: Uri Cirlin at +972 54-559-6178

Yesh Din is required by law to make the following statement:

Yesh Din is mostly funded by foreign governmental entities - through grants devoted to the provision of humanitarian assistance and the promotion of human rights. A list of our donors is available on the Israeli Associations Register's website and on Yesh Din's website.

Yesh Din is proud to be funded by States that are committed to the rule of law, that believe the occupation is not an internal Israeli matter, and that support the defense of international humanitarian law and human rights.



Copyright © 2026 Yesh Din, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)