



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Updates on the Siege of Qusra, Land Registration and Military Investigation into Two Incidents in Gaza

20.8.2026

The Settlers' Siege of Qusra Continues

The situation of the Palestinian families in the Ein Aina area of Qusra (Area B) continues to deteriorate under the settler-military imposed siege. After settlers repeatedly re-established a sukkah/tent near the families' homes, the Israeli military launched an operation on 13 August, during which approximately 16 Palestinian families were forced to leave their homes so that soldiers could occupy them for "defensive purposes." Although most of these orders were later withdrawn, one of the families' homes remains occupied by soldiers, while residents have been confined to neighbouring homes and subjected to severe restrictions on their movement.

Furthermore, the military has declared the area to be a closed military zone and have enforced severe restrictions against the Palestinians, who cannot enter or leave their homes—or in some cases even

access their yards, while the settlers continue to come and go freely, as can be seen in the picture below.



Israeli settlers and soldiers greet each other in front of the besieged Palestinians' homes in Qusra. Credit: Affected families.

Attempts by residents, aid workers and municipal workers to bring food, water, electricity and other essential services into the area have been obstructed; a humanitarian aid delivery was reportedly left outside a family home for more than 24 hours because soldiers refused to allow the residents to open their front doors and bring it inside. When municipal workers attempted to repair damaged water and electricity infrastructure, settlers reportedly prevented them from working, while the military detained and allegedly assaulted a municipal maintenance worker.

Rather than protecting Palestinian residents and enforce the law on the settlers that are trespassing, illegally setting up outposts and are perpetrating violence, the military has effectively upheld the settlers' siege themselves - in other words it is punishing the victims rather than acting against the perpetrators. Therefore Yesh Din, on behalf of the two families, have sent an urgent letters to Avi Bluth- the Head of the IDF Central Command who oversees military operations in the West Bank, senior officials in the military and Israeli law enforcement authorities demanding the effective enforcement against the settlers, disclosure of the legal basis and duration of the military's occupation of their homes, and the immediate return of all occupied homes to their owners.

We urgently call the international community to act now. The GOI must be pressured to enforce the law on the invading settlers and ensure the protection of Palestinians and their property in accordance with Israel's obligations under international law.

We also urgently call the international community to pressure the GOI to stop further restrictions on the families and allow them access to basic needs.

The Israeli Government Continue with the Settlement of Title (Land Registration) Process

In May 2025, after a decades-long suspension, Israel's Security Cabinet renewed the Settlement of Title (SOLT) in the West Bank. A year later, the Israeli Ministry of Justice issued a tender seeking to outsource the management and implementation of the SOLT in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. On June 25, 2026, Yesh Din,

Bimkom and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel [filed a petition with the Jerusalem District Court](#), demanding the cancellation of the Ministry of Justice's tender.

At the end of July, Yesh Din, Bimkom and the Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) submitted petition to the HCJ after the **District Court** in Jerusalem postponed ruling on an injunction that would allow the State to proceed with the tender process on Land Registration and **create irreversible administrative and legal realities before the courts have had an opportunity to determine its legality.**

The process of Land Registration in the West Bank is an additional measure for dispossessing Palestinian residents of their land and property. It would harm the basic rights to property of Palestinian, who are considered protected persons under international law, as well as the rights of many Palestinians turned absentee, who will be unable to protect their property.

The petition challenges the tender arguing that the Ministry of Justice lacks any legal authority to conduct land registration in the West Bank, much less authority to delegate this power to other parties, where such powers remain under the military commander as per prescribed International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Moreover, land registration proceedings in the West Bank have been suspended since 1968 and the tender seeks to implement a future government policy before the necessary legal changes have been enacted.

The petition further argues that the tender is unlawful on several grounds. First, it constitutes the privatization of core governmental powers by transferring public functions to a private entity. Second, it

discriminates against Palestinians residing in the West Bank by unlawfully excluding them from participating as it is conducted under Israeli domestic procurement law rather than the military legal framework under IHL. The petition contends that comprehensive land registration may only take place with permanent sovereign authority and risks facilitating the appropriation of Palestinian land.

Alongside these principal claims, the petition requested an interim injunction to freeze the tender process before contracts are awarded and irreversible facts are created on the ground. Although the District Court acknowledged that the petition raises distinct legal questions, it postponed ruling on the injunction pending developments in those separate proceedings. Unfortunately, the HCJ has also decided not to issue an injunction at this time, **thus, allowing the tender process to continue and create irreversible administrative and legal realities before the courts have had an opportunity to determine its legality.**

We call the international community to act now and pressure the GOI to cease all actions related to SOLT, which will permanently change the status of occupied territory that will lead to annexation, dispossession and the infringement of protections of civilians under IHL.

Furthermore, we call for the international community to closely monitor the developments of the tender and the Land Registration more broadly.

Read Yesh Din's Position Paper on Land Registration [HERE](#) and the Impact of the Decision [HERE](#)

The Military's Decision to Open Criminal Investigations into Two Gaza Incidents

On 19 August, [the Military announced that it would open criminal investigations](#) into two high-profile incidents involving the killing of Palestinian civilians and medical personnel during the Gaza war. At the same time, the military announced that it would not open criminal investigations into three other high-profile incidents.

The criminal investigations will now be conducted by Military Police, with their findings to be transferred to Military Advocate General who will then decide whether to file indictments or not. If indictments are filed, the criminal proceedings will be held in military court. Even before the aforementioned investigation is opened, the decision to proceed is initially reviewed by General Staff Mechanism for Fact-Finding Assessments (FFA Mechanism). This mechanism is tasked with conducting rapid preliminary inquiries into suspected violations of the laws of war and assists the Military Advocate General in deciding whether to launch a criminal investigation or not.

The Military's announcement is notable because it represents a rare case where it has decided to move from a fact-finding review to a criminal investigation concerning the conduct of its forces in Gaza. Before this announcement, only 4 such cases have happened to date.

Yesh Din's monitoring of the military law enforcement mechanism with regards to "Operation Protective Edge" (2014), operation to repress the Great March of Return protests (2018) and "Operation Guardian of the Walls" (2021), which all occurred in the Gaza Strip during the past decade, raise heavy suspicions that the military law enforcement mechanism's main role, and particularly the FFA Mechanism, is to

maintain an appearance of a functional mechanism in order to evade properly investigating suspected war crimes:

-Near complete immunity to commanders and soldiers who harm Palestinians - Almost all the cases the FFA assesses are subsequently closed without a decision to open a criminal investigation, and nearly zero indictments are served relative to the number of complaints against soldiers and commanders who commit offenses. In rare cases when commanders or soldiers are convicted, they receive ridiculously lenient sentences compared with the severity of the offense.

-Refraining from investigating high-ranking decision makers and policy makers - The top ranks in government, military and Office of the Attorney General, who are responsible for setting Israel's use of force policy, are not subject to any review by the law enforcement system

-Refraining from conducting a proper, quick and effective assessment - The FFA Mechanism wastes precious time and often years, at this very preliminary review stage. When an investigation is opened, it too can take a long time, as can the Military Advocate General's decision. Ultimately, the prolonged duration of reviews and investigations undermines the ability to ensure accountability.

Read Yesh Din's 2024 report - [**The General Staff Whitewashing Mechanism: The Israeli law enforcement system and breaches of international law and war crimes in Gaza**](#)

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For any enquiries, please contact Jack Munayer:

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