



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Yesh Din Releases New Data Sheet: Law Enforcement on Israeli Civilians in the West Bank (Settler Violence) 2005-2023

Yesh Din has released our [newest data sheet](#) presenting findings from nearly two decades of monitoring police investigations of offenses committed by Israeli civilians against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank, based on 1,664 investigations conducted between 2005 and 2023 (Yesh Din has documented hundreds more incidents of settler violence in which the Palestinian victims chose not to file complaints).

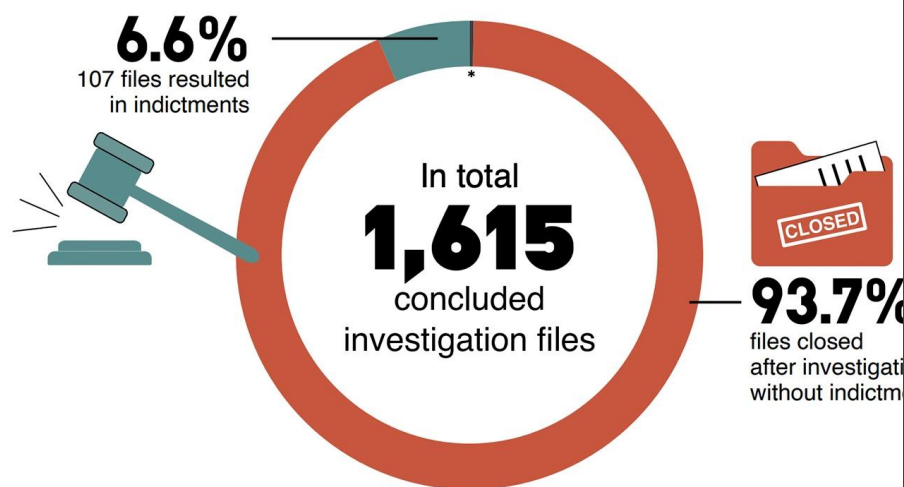
The release of this datasheet follows a period of intense settler violence, as 2023 was the most violent year for settler violence in the West Bank since Yesh Din began systematic monitoring of settler violence in 2006. [2023 was the most severe year for settler violence](#) in terms of both the number of incidents and the gravity of the events, the number of Israeli civilians involved, and their outcomes. At least 10 Palestinians were killed by settlers, and dozens of homes and vehicles were set on fire. This information is consistent with the data from OCHA – the UN Office for the Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs, which documented over 1,200 settler violence incidents in 2023 resulting in harm to Palestinians or damage to their property.

In 2023, numerous incidents of violence in the West Bank were carried out by a large group of Israeli settlers, including in [Huwarah](#) (February) and in [Turmusaya](#) (June). In these incidents, hundreds of Israelis raided Palestinian villages, setting fire to dozens of homes and vehicles. The first two months since October 7 were particularly violent, with [Yesh Din documenting 242 settler violence incidents](#).

State Sanctioned Ideologically Motivated Crime

Investigation files opened between 2005 and 2023, by type of outcome



* Five of the investigation files (0.3%) were closed by the police but reopened following appeals filed by Yesh Din with an indictment ultimately filed. These cases were counted twice, both as cases that were closed at the end of an investigation, and as cases that ended with an indictment.

Central Findings

Investigations and indictments

- 93.7% of all investigation files were closed without an indictment.
- The Israel Police failed in the investigation of 81% of the investigation files opened between 2005 and 2023 concerning Israelis who harmed Palestinians and their property in the West Bank.

Convictions

- Since 2005, only 3% of investigation files opened into ideologically-motivated offenses by Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank have led to a conviction.

Discrimination in Israeli law enforcement in the OPT

- Police figures indicate discrimination in Israeli law enforcement in the OPT: In 2022, no indictments were served against Israelis who harmed Palestinians in the West Bank. 10 indictments were filed against Israelis who harmed members of the security forces and other non-Palestinians.

17% increase in the rate of Palestinians choosing not to file complaints

- Since the inauguration of Israel's 37th government, more Palestinians have expressed mistrust in Israeli law enforcement in the West Bank. In 2023, 57.5% of Palestinian crime victims chose not to exercise their right to file a police complaint against Israelis who harmed them, compared to 40% in 2022.

Long-Standing Systemic and Deliberate Failure of Israeli Law Enforcement on Settler Violence

Analysis of the monitoring data proves that the Israeli law enforcement system fails in fulfilling its duty to protect Palestinians from Israeli violence and grants them *de facto* impunity. The failings of the law enforcement system are reflected throughout every step of dealing with ideological crimes committed by Israeli citizens against Palestinians in the West Bank: ineffective prevention, failed police investigations, low indictment rates, and lenient punishment for convicted criminals. This long-standing systemic failure is a deliberate policy of the State of Israel, which normalizes the ideological violence of Israelis against Palestinians in the West Bank, supports it, and even benefits from its results.

[Click to read the datasheet](#)

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