



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Yesh Din releases new datasheet:

Law Enforcement Against Israeli Soldiers Suspected of Harming Palestinians, 2019-2020

Yesterday, May 22, Yesh Din released our [most recent datasheet](#) summarizing the outcomes of work of the military law enforcement system between 2019-2020 regarding offenses committed by soldiers against Palestinians in the oPt. Yesh Din concludes that, while the military law enforcement authorities have made some changes in recent years, these changes primarily enable the system to present improved data and repel criticism directed at it, while continuing to grant soldiers near total immunity from prosecution in cases of harming Palestinians. The release of this datasheet holds particular significance in light of the recent decision by the Military Police Criminal Investigation Division (MPCID) [not to open an investigation](#) into the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh as well as the ongoing investigation of the International Criminal Court into suspected war crimes. The data presented is based on information provided to Yesh Din by the military.

According to the datasheet, in 2019-2020:

- The MAGC received a total of 273 complaints regarding soldier's offenses against Palestinians.
- Investigations were launched by the MAGC in one-fifth of the complaints received - 56 investigations launched out of 273 complaints. 72% of complaints (in which decisions have been made) were closed with no criminal investigation.

- Only 2% of all complaints made by Palestinians after being harmed by Israeli soldiers in 2019–2020 resulted in the prosecution of suspects.

[Click for the datasheet](#)



The small proportion of investigations opened in incidents of suspected offenses against Palestinians reflects a continuous trend of decline that Yesh Din has observed for a number of years; the number of investigations opened in 2019-2020 decreased by 26% compared to the number of investigations opened in previous years (2017-2018).

Analysis of the data indicates that no profound change has taken place in the military system's attitude towards criminal activity by soldiers against Palestinians. Contrary to the prevailing opinion in Israel, **the military law enforcement system seeks to avoid investigating and prosecuting soldiers who harm Palestinians, thereby failing to provide Palestinians with protection from offenses by Israeli commanders and soldiers.** In the rare cases in which soldiers are convicted, they are sentenced to very lenient sentences in relation to the original offenses alleged in the complaints.

The **International Criminal Court** has the authority to investigate war crimes only where the country in which the alleged crimes were committed fails to investigate such suspicions properly, due to lack of will or competence. The failure of the State of Israel to fulfill the basic duty of protecting Palestinians and enforcing the law against soldiers who commit offenses against Palestinians has paved the way for the intervention of international mechanisms, such as the announcement of the ICC on the investigation of suspected war crimes allegedly committed by the State of Israel under the auspices of its control in the OPT.

This new data is released just days after **Haaretz reported that [the MPCID decided not to open an investigation](#) into the case of the killing of al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh**. This erroneous decision reflects the ongoing trend of fewer criminal investigations opened by the military which Yesh Din has observed.

[Click for CNN report including Yesh Din's data on military investigations in the context of the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh](#)

[Click for the datasheet](#)

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believe the occupation is not an internal Israeli matter, and that support the defense of international humanitarian law and human rights.