



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Law enforcement against Israeli soldiers suspected of harming Palestinians and their property, 2017-2021

December 22, 2022

Yesh Din is releasing our yearly datasheet on law enforcement against Israeli soldiers suspected of harming Palestinians and their property, with data from the years 2017-2021. The information is based on data provided to Yesh Din by the Israeli military in response to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

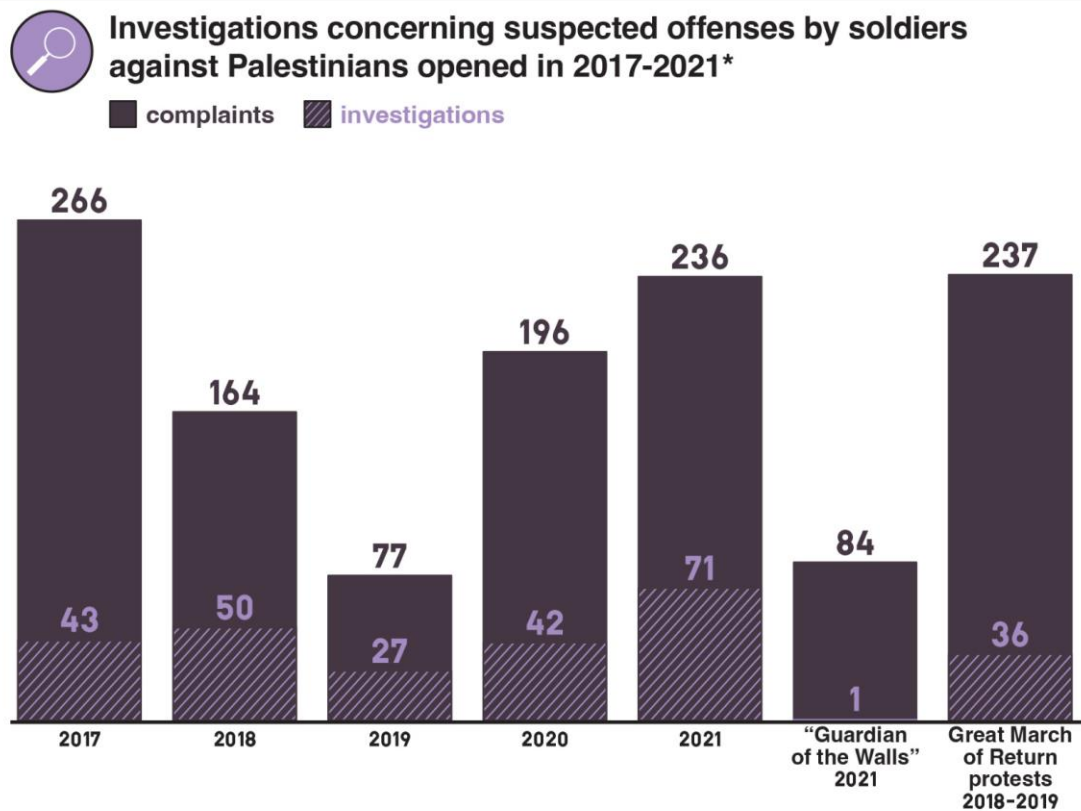
The data demonstrates that military law enforcement authorities systematically avoid investigating and prosecuting soldiers who harm Palestinians. In so doing, the military is failing to uphold its duty to provide Palestinian residents with protection against offenses committed by Israeli soldiers and commanders under the auspices of Israel's ongoing occupation and as an inevitable outcome of it.

[Click here for the datasheet](#)

From the 1,260 complaints regarding soldiers harming Palestinians and their property filed during this five-year period:

- The odds that a complaint concerning a soldier harming Palestinians will result in the filing of an indictment against the soldier is less than one percent: 0.87%.
- Only 21.4% of all complaints filed resulted in the opening of a criminal investigation.

- As of December 2022, only 11 cases (4.4%) out of the total investigations opened in 2017-2021 (248 cases) resulted in indictments being filed.
- Soldiers who are prosecuted for killing Palestinians receive very lenient sentences.
- The army does not investigate all of the cases in which Palestinian civilians are killed, contrary to its official investigation policy, which states that every case of killing that transpired under circumstances that were not of actual combat must be investigated.



*Some of the investigations opened in 2017 related to complaints from previous years.

This data demonstrates the military law enforcement system's complete disregard for Palestinians' lives, precludes any possibility of deterrence and encourages the continued use of the deadly trigger-happy policy that has claimed so many Palestinian lives.

This current atmosphere of impunity is soon expected to become even more absolute, as the incoming coalition wishes to promote legislation granting total immunity to all soldiers and commanders in their encounters with Palestinians. Furthermore, the incoming government is expected to further ease open fire regulations, as well as criminalize the documentation of Israeli soldiers.

Urgent action is needed by the international community to demand fundamental reform of Israel's military law enforcement system and to take steps to prevent the official impunity of Israeli security forces from becoming law.

[Click here for the datasheet](#)

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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.