

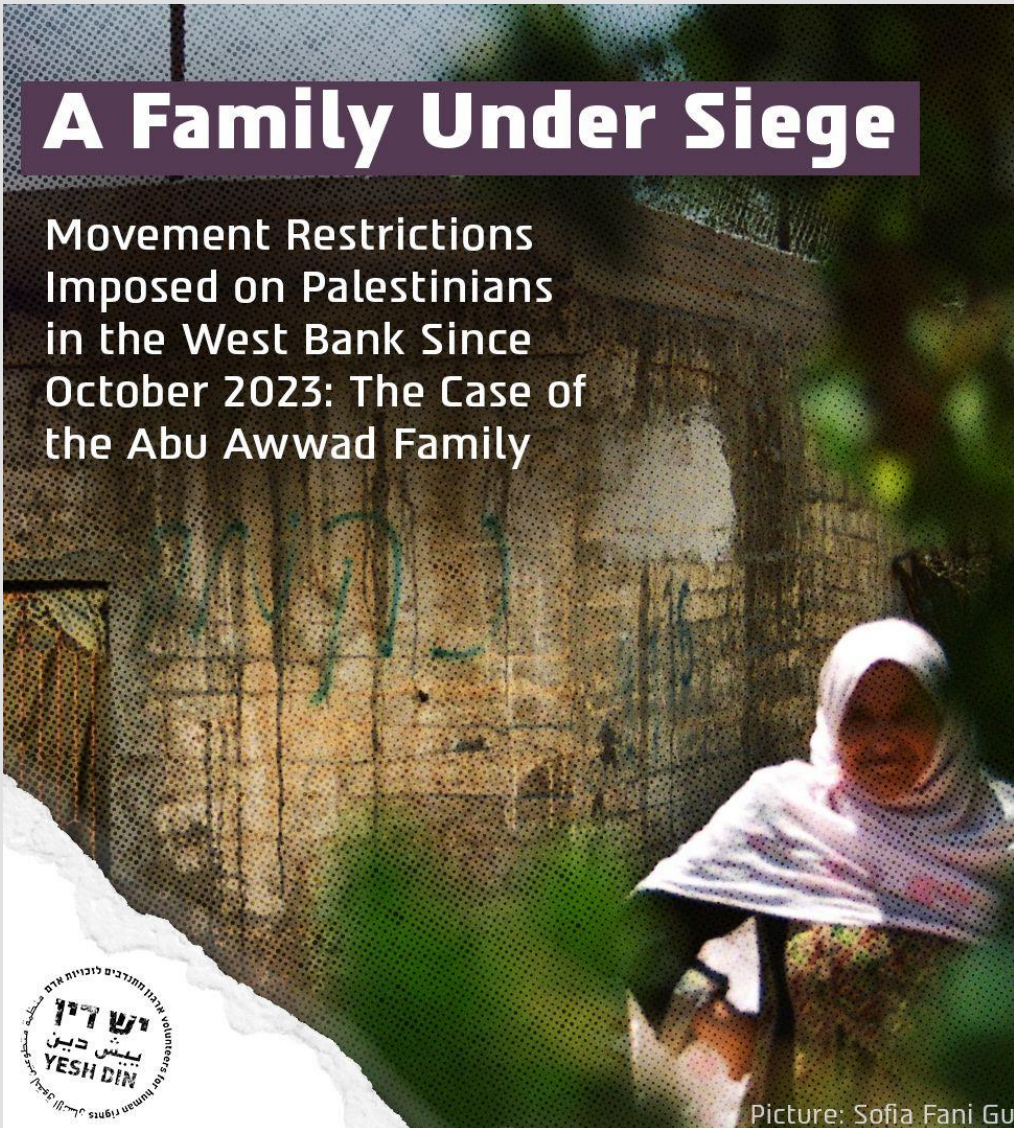


Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

A Family Under Siege

**Movement Restrictions
Imposed on Palestinians
in the West Bank Since
October 2023: The Case of
the Abu Awwad Family**



Picture: Sofia Fani Gu

Last week, Yesh Din published a new report focusing on the case of the Abu Awwad family from Turmusaya in the West Bank. The family's

sole access to their residential compound, located on the outskirts of the town has been blocked by an earth mound of dirt and stones placed by soldiers and settlers in October 2023.

For over a year, soldiers stationed nearby have imposed a series of restrictions on the family, prohibiting family members from working on the agricultural lands surrounding their home - their main source of livelihood - receiving visitors, or entering and leaving their homes freely. The Abu Awwad family, consisting of about 25 members, including 11 minors, lives in a relatively remote area about two kilometers from the town center, relying on access to Turmusaya for schools, clinics, and stores. The restrictions forced family members to walk to the town on foot, carrying food supplies over difficult terrain.

In January 2024, about 30 settlers attacked the family compound, spraying graffiti with slogans such as "Death to Arabs" and "Revenge" at the entrance of their home. Shortly afterward, a Civilian Security Coordinator (CSC) from the nearby settlement of Shiloh arrived at the compound and threatened the family, giving them five days to leave.

In May 2024, the Abu Awwad family [appealed to the High Court of Justice](#) with Yesh Din's assistance, demanding the removal of the blockade, permission to work the agricultural lands around it, and lifting the restrictions on their compound (see invitation to briefing below). The state's preliminary response to the petition claimed the roadblock was imposed for security reasons. However, it also clarified that there are no additional restrictions on freedom of movement in the area, including the nightly curfew imposed on the family or any prohibition preventing the family from farming its land. Following the state's response, some restrictions were eased, and the family could host visitors again.

However, despite these minor improvements, in October 2024, soldiers once again expelled the family from the agricultural lands surrounding the compound. Shortly afterward, a military order was issued, declaring

all the agricultural areas around the family's compound off-limits, contradicting the army's earlier position presented in court.

More than a year after the blockade was imposed, the family's freedom of movement remains severely restricted. They are effectively at the mercy of soldiers and settlement security personnel, who supervise the family's movements and harass them with impunity. The petition is still in process, with a court hearing scheduled for December 9, 2024.

While this case might seem relatively minor - especially when compared to the horrors Israel is currently perpetrating in Gaza - it serves as a case study illustrating the devastating impact of Israel's blockade policy on the daily lives of many Palestinians. This policy has intensified, with dozens of additional blockades imposed by Israeli security forces throughout the West Bank since October 2023. The case also underscores the collaboration - whether overt or covert - between the State of Israel and settlers seeking to forcibly displace Palestinians from their lands.

[Read the full report](#)

Invitation to Online Briefing Approaching the Hearing on the Case of the Abu Awwad Family

On Monday, **December 2, 2024**, Yesh Din will be holding an online briefing on the new report described above, combined with a briefing on the petition filed on behalf of the Abu Awwad family - the hearing of which in the HCJ is scheduled to take place on Monday, **December 9, 2024**. The briefing will take approximately 1-1.5 hours, and will begin at **11:00 am**.

Registration for the online briefing

The briefing will inform the diplomatic community about the case, and prepare those who are interested in attending the hearing. We highly encourage attending HCJ hearings, and anyone who would like to attend this hearing with Yesh Din is welcome to write Yahav Erez, Yesh Din's International Advocacy Coordinator, at: yahave@yesh-din.org.

New WhatsApp Group for Diplomatic Updates

We opened a new WhatsApp group for diplomatic updates, in which we will be sending periodic updates on important developments in the West Bank easily and conveniently. It will be a 'silent' group, meaning only the administrators can post messages, and there won't be conversations or debates. This is an efficient way to keep the diplomatic community up to date, and 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: Yahav Erez || Yahave@yesh-din.org || +972 (0)54.759.2456

For media inquiries contact: Uri Cirlin || +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 © 2024 Yesh Din, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you signed up through our website

Our mailing address is:

Yesh Din

PO Box 50304

Tel Aviv 6150201

Israel

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)
