



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

A Dangerous New Practice of Uprooting Olive Trees in Large Swaths of Land

Over the past few months, the Military Commander in the West Bank has been increasingly ordering the uprooting of olive trees in large swaths of land across the West Bank using Security Measures orders. The authority to perform such an act derives from clause 326 of the Security Orders section in the Emergency Regulations, handed down to Israel from the British Mandate. The use of this type of warrant has not been common in recent years, certainly not on such a large scale, and the current procedures and regulations for exercising this order have not been published, which makes it harder for the Palestinian landowners to object to the brutal uprooting of their trees. In most cases known to Yesh Din, the Palestinian DCO and landowners were not notified properly regarding the issuing of the order, and the notification process was either carried out late or not at all.

Yesh Din is deeply concerned that this practice is becoming increasingly widespread and is using the pretext of security measures to further burden the Palestinian population as part of the annexation policy and Somtrich's [Decisive Plan](#). During the past few months, these

'security measures orders' have been implemented in the following areas, mainly in proximity to new outposts and roads:

[Al-Mughayir](#) - On August 21, 2025, some 3,100 olive trees in the lands of Al-Mughayir were uprooted by the military. The uprooting began on the day that the military order was published, denying the landowners the chance to object. At the time, Maj. General Avi Bluth, Military Commander of the West Bank, [had stated that this was done as a punitive measure](#). Following the incident, Yesh Din sent an urgent letter demanding that an investigation be opened against Bluth on the grounds of his use of collective punishment as official policy. Read the English translation of the letter [here](#).

[Qaryut](#) - On December 8, 2025, the military uprooted hundreds of olive trees planted on more than 150 dunams of land in Qaryut. The military order is dated October 26, 2025, and the military claims that it was given to the DCO; however, the DCO did not receive it. In addition, the military claims that it was put up on one of the trees in the orchard itself on November 7, 2025, and that a 'landowners' tour' was scheduled for that same day, but none of the landowners showed up. The area specified in the order is approximately 80 dunams, but the village council stated that the military uprooted trees planted on more than 150 dunams.

[Ya'bad](#) - Last week, the village of Ya'bad received military orders dated December 14, 2025, stating that dozens of dunams were designated for uprooting and seizure by the military. A 'landowners' tour' was held on December 20, 2025, as a preliminary step before uprooting olive orchards on their land. At the moment, this case is being handled by Attorney Alon Sapir on behalf of ACRI.

Similar mass uprootings have been carried out in [Deir Istiya](#), [Budrus](#), and [Beit Ur al-Fauqa](#), supposedly as a result of these ‘security measures orders’ being executed, though Yesh Din has no further details at the moment. Yesh Din has appealed to the military, demanding clarification as to what the regulations are and attempting to halt the uprootings, but has received very poor responses. We urge the international community to pay attention to this alarming practice that the military has been implementing while refusing to meet the minimal standards of lawful execution. The uprooting of trees at this scale creates irreversible damage on the ground, both economic and ecological.

Two Petitions Filed With the HCJ

A Petition to Make the Army and Police Publish Contact Information for Parties Tasked with Providing an Urgent Response in Emergencies when Palestinians in the West Bank are Harmed

As part of the army’s obligation to protect Palestinians farmers and their property, before the war broke out in October 2023, the army officially designated parties tasked with handling urgent incidents in the West Bank: the Civil Administration humanitarian hotline, District Coordination Offices (DCOs), army brigade war rooms, and the Office of the Legal Advisor in the West Bank (LA-JS) operated as hotlines during various periods for farmers, activists and aid organization workers, responding – even if partially – to urgent calls. Since October 2023, no party is officially tasked with providing emergency responses to urgent calls. Two call centers, in the Civil Administration and the Central Command, operate on a limited basis on weekdays and office hours only. Contacting these call centers has proven ineffective.

On October 30, 2025, Yesh Din petitioned the High Court of Justice demanding that the army assign an official tasked with and authorized to respond in cases when Palestinians' rights are harmed, and immediate intervention is necessary, and publish contact information in Hebrew and Arabic for parties tasked with handling urgent calls, who shall be on call 24/7. The petition lists numerous examples of violent incidents perpetrated against Palestinians, which required immediate response. Because there is no defined or accessible party taking urgent calls 24/7, neither army nor police forces responded to these incidents, and security forces failed to uphold their duty to protect Palestinians who were attacked.

The petition argues that the military commander has a heightened duty of care to provide an effective response to the violation of Palestinians' human rights, given his unique role as the governing authority responsible for both the urgent and routine needs of millions of protected persons. Refraining from designating and tasking a police or army official with receiving information from the field about incidents in which Palestinians' fundamental human rights are harmed, responsible for responding effectively in urgent cases, effectively creates a barrier between the protected persons and those making decisions concerning them.

On November 30, 2025, following a hearing on the petition, the court issued a decision in which it incorporated, among other things, the state's commitment that "a dedicated police phone line (number 02-6576750) is available to residents who are not connected to the Israeli telephone infrastructure, and according to the information provided, it will be appropriately published in Arabic on the COGAT website in the coming days." An update notice will be submitted by the state by the

end of January 2026, after which a decision will be made regarding the continuation of the petition.

[Read the full petition \(Hebrew\)](#)

[Read the state response \(Hebrew\)](#)

[Read the final decision \(Hebrew\)](#)

A Petition to Lift Movement Restrictions Imposed on al-Mughayir for Over Two Years

The Israeli military has been imposing severe, ongoing movement restrictions on the village of al-Mughayir in the Ramallah district ever since the war in Gaza broke out in October 2023. The village's two main access roads, eastward to the Allon Road and westward to Route 60, have been blocked with dirt mounds and checkpoints, and many agricultural roads leading to the village have been blocked with dirt mounds and ditches. The village council and residents were not informed of these blockages, nor were they presented with the reasons for them, a document authorizing them, or an opportunity to challenge them.

These closures isolate the village and almost entirely cut it off from its main access roads. They disrupt the daily lives of thousands of residents, force them to use long, irregular detours, and at times prevent them from leaving the village altogether. As a result, residents' access to health, education, employment, agriculture, commerce, and emergency services is severely impeded daily. Village residents who

own agricultural land are denied any access to their lands, both due to physical obstructions and because soldiers drive them away from lands that are not blocked daily, resulting in loss of crops and ongoing harm to their livelihoods and property rights.

While residents have been unable to reach their lands, over this time, Israeli settlers have established at least four illegal outposts around the village and on its lands. Their occupants have been taking over lands belonging to nearby Palestinian villages, where they have put up structures, grazed their flocks, damaged trees and crops, vandalized property, and carried out severe attacks against local Palestinians. In a particularly severe incident that occurred in April 2024, hundreds of Israelis, some of them armed, raided al-Mughayir and attacked its residents, while the village itself was surrounded by soldiers.

The petition argues that the military has not presented any concrete, specific security justification for these prolonged closures, and that the use of the injurious measure of closing off an entire village has become routine, with no periodic review of whether it remains necessary in the particular case. Therefore, the petition asserts that the closures are disproportionate and constitute prohibited collective punishment. The petition asks the Court to order the military to remove the closures and lift movement restrictions at the village's main entrances, to stop removing residents from any agricultural lands that are not physically blocked, and to allow them to cultivate those lands.

According to the court's decision, the state was required to respond to the petition by December 20. A few days ago, the state requested a one-month extension, and Yesh Din agreed on the condition that plowing would be allowed on the lands adjacent to the village homes. The respondents stated that there was no closure order in effect for the

area and, therefore, no impediment to carrying out the plowing, and accordingly, Yesh Din consented to the extension. After the court approved the extension, in a devious move, the state's attorneys informed us that a closure order had been issued covering most of the area where the petitioners sought to plow, and that it was possible to file an objection to the order.

Read the full petition (Hebrew)

Join Our WhatsApp Group for Diplomatic Updates

We invite you to join our WhatsApp group for diplomatic updates, in which we send periodic updates on important developments in the West Bank easily and conveniently. It is a 'silent' group, meaning only the administrators can post messages, and there are no conversations or debates. You are welcome to join and share the link with colleagues.

Join Yesh Din's new WhatsApp group

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