



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Yesh Din's new report –

Over the Border: The institutionalized
Israelization of Area C and the violation
of Palestinians' human rights



Military checkpoint blocking the access point from the village of Beita to Route 60 reflects total Israeli control over Area C (Ahmad al-Bazz, Activestills, September 23, 2016)

On October 24, 2022, Yesh Din released “[Over the Border](#)”, a report presenting the institutionalized Israelization process that is being led by successive Israeli governments in Area C, effectively annexing 60% of the West Bank, in violation of international law and Israeli law. The report further evidences how Israeli presence in Area C inherently violates the human rights of Palestinian residents of the West Bank.

*In recent years, statements in the Knesset and in the media concerning the “Palestinian takeover of lands in Area C” have been rapidly spiraling. This report aims to clarify this misconception, while emphasizing that, with accordance to the legal situation, **Area C is Palestinian land held under Israeli military occupation.***

Over the years, Israeli presence in the West Bank has extended far beyond the military and settlers. The report provides examples of the ‘Israelization’ of the West Bank and explains why getting an education at the university in the settlement of Ariel, attending an Israeli rock concert in the oPt or going shopping beyond the Green Line are not innocuous activities but rather political acts.

[Click here for the report](#)

The division of the West Bank into Areas A, B and C for a transitional period of five years, as part of the Oslo Accords, has been in place for nearly **three decades**. Israel continues to rule the entirety of the oPt with military force, using this artificial division to take over a staggering

amount of land in the West Bank, particularly in Area C, in violation of international and Israeli law. Israel forces the majority of the Palestinian population to reside in Areas A and B and to remain completely dependent on the Israeli military for everyday activities – impinging on Palestinians’ freedom of movement inside the West Bank and their freedom to cultivate their lands, build and expand their communities, and more.

Though the Oslo Accords did not alter the state of sovereignty over the West Bank in legal terms, by continuing to build and expand settlements, outposts and shepherding outposts in the West Bank, and normalizing Israeli civilian presence in the occupied territory, Israel treats Area C as if it were an inseparable part of itself and goes to great lengths to obfuscate its borders. In a parallel process, the state initiates and advances institutionalized legal, economic and cultural seepage into the West Bank. In this, Israel strives to supplement its military control with civilian dominance, thereby effectively annexing Area C.

This report serves as a reminder that Israel’s policy defies both international law and Israeli law, which expressly stipulate that Area C, like the rest of the West Bank, is land held under military occupation. Yesh Din calls on the international community to intervene and stop the institutionalized Israelization of Area C, which severely violates the human rights of the indigenous Palestinian population.

[Click here for the report](#)

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