

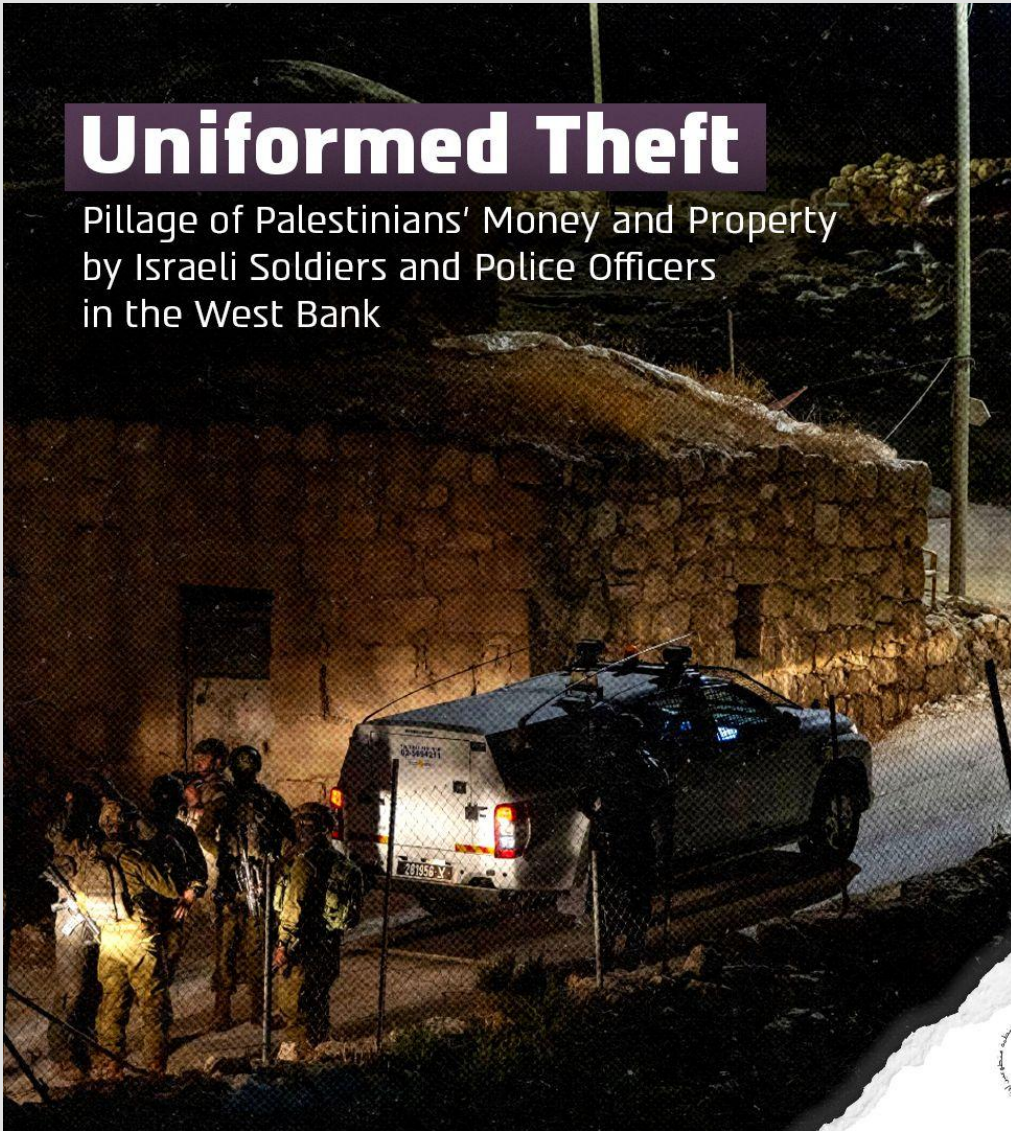


Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Uniformed Theft

Pillage of Palestinians' Money and Property
by Israeli Soldiers and Police Officers
in the West Bank



On August 27, 2025, Yesh Din published a new report focusing on the pillage of Palestinians' money and property by Israeli security forces personnel in the West Bank. "Uniformed Theft" offers a glimpse into the experience of many Palestinians whose homes, private property, and rights have been violated by Israeli soldiers or police officers. This report presents first-hand testimonies regarding five incidents that raise suspicion of theft of property by Israeli security forces personnel in 2022-2024. The accumulation of testimonies that Yesh Din has documented reflects a widespread phenomenon that completely violates international law and military law and is all but ignored by Israeli authorities.

Pillage, meaning theft or looting of Palestinians' belongings or money by Israeli soldiers or police officers, is a war crime. This phenomenon has persisted for many years, and Yesh Din has documented such cases for over two decades. Yet in recent months, this phenomenon has both worsened and been normalized, mainly as a result of Israel's military takeover of the Gaza Strip. Since October 2023, Yesh Din field researchers have received dozens of complaints from Palestinian residents of the West Bank, reporting that Israeli soldiers or police officers stole their cash and valuables.

Acts of pillage are frequently perpetrated during searches at checkpoints and nighttime invasions of homes. These measures of violent military control are carried out according to military law, which grants soldiers and police officers almost unchecked powers. This framework, which lacks mechanisms for oversight and protection, enables abuse of power and the commission of pillage offenses. Yesh Din's experience reflects that even when Palestinians do file a complaint against security forces personnel for theft of their property,

the chances that this complaint will lead to an effective investigation, prosecution, or any measures against the soldiers or police personnel involved are close to none.

Backed by military law, which allows the army to invade homes and conduct searches at checkpoints without oversight, and in the absence of effective enforcement measures against offending soldiers, Palestinians' property and money are stolen by Israeli security forces personnel, sometimes while inflicting humiliation and threats. Palestinians under occupation are left unprotected from the absolute powers wielded by Israeli security forces personnel and are at their mercy.

According to the report, pillage of Palestinians' property has become an inseparable part of Israeli control over Palestinians. This phenomenon contributes to a wider pattern of institutionalized, systemic pillage and dispossession of Palestinians in the West Bank by the State of Israel. It is accomplished by exercising Israeli law and military legislation, which permit expropriating land, declaring state land, and retroactively authorizing settlements and outposts built on privately-owned Palestinian land.

[Read the full report](#)

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.

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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

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