



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Dear community,

With Israel's military occupation over the oPt just having entered its 56th year, the situation on the ground for Palestinians, as well as for the human rights NGOs which strive to protect them, has never been more perilous. Openly racist and fascist individuals are serving as Israeli government ministers, and have been granted unprecedented authorities over law enforcement, administering civilian life in the occupied territories, as well as state finances – which are now being funneled into settlement expansion at an astonishing rate. The Israeli government has set full annexation of the West Bank as a central item on its agenda and is working vigorously to achieve this goal (see below: [Joint policy paper](#)).

On the ground, we are witnessing an appalling spike in the number of Palestinian civilians killed as a result of Israeli military activity, including women, children and journalists. Settler violence has reached record levels: Last week, Israeli settlers launched violent pogroms in Palestinian villages for five days straight, during which dozens of Palestinians were injured and many vehicles, homes and businesses were burned. These events are a direct result of a long-

term policy that accepts and even supports settler violence, together with the most racist and supremacist government Israel has ever known.

In another tell-tale sign of the attack on democratic principles, government-led efforts to silence civil society which dares to criticize its policies have reached new heights as well: the government has committed to impose a tax on donations from 'foreign governmental entities' to CSOs, which would force many of us to shut our doors. For the time being, international pressure resulted in the [shelving of a bill](#) that would have imposed a 65% tax on such donations. Unfortunately, we remain confident that this attempt is just the beginning of the attacks we will face under the current Israeli regime.

As we continue to publish [policy analyses exposing Israel's explicit annexation](#) policy, lead legal & public campaigns against [the ruthless expropriation of Palestinians from their land](#), and expose the abysmal [failure of Israeli law enforcement](#) to prevent settler violence, it is increasingly evident that we need you, our community of supporters, to continue this fight. As long as we have the strength of our community of like-minded individuals, who care about justice, human rights and the future of this place and its people, we will not stop until Israel's oppressive occupation and apartheid are dismantled.

Thank you for following our work and for providing us with this strength.

Ziv Stahl,
Executive Director

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Five-day Spree of Settler Attacks Devastate Several Palestinian Towns



Burned cars in the aftermath of the pogrom in a-Lubban a-Sharqiyah, June 21. Photo: Yesh Din.

Last week, we witnessed yet another [devastating surge of violence](#) instigated by Israeli settlers in the West Bank. This particular wave, initially fueled by revenge following the attack near the Eli settlement resulting in the deaths of four Israelis, unfolded within a span of five days. Reports of 15 notable attacks reached Yesh Din from the villages of [a-Lubban a-Sharqiyah](#), Qabalan, Za'tara, Huwara, [Beiteen](#), [Turmusaya](#), Urif, Sinjil, Jalud, [Um Safa](#), and Khirbet Jib'it. Amidst these horrifying events, dozens of injuries, and almost **one hundred**

vehicles and dozens of homes were deliberately set on fire or severely vandalized. Additionally, incidents of stone-throwing and the [discharge of firearms](#) by settlers were reported, culminating in the **death of a Palestinian man**. Entire villages were deliberately subjected to electricity blackouts, while acts of [vandalism targeted mosques](#) and [desecrated copies of the Quran](#), and a school was set ablaze. Simultaneously, at least nine new outposts were erected on lands belonging to the villages of Sinjil, a-Lubban a-Sharqiyah, Mikhmas, Teqoa, Mu'arrajat, Deir Istiya, Qariot, Deir Sharaf & Um Safa.

In addition to our continuous communications with law enforcement authorities, on June 22, Yesh Din sent an urgent letter to Israel's Attorney General, detailing the many violent attacks and new outposts and demanding that Israeli authorities take control of the situation to enforce the law on the Israeli attackers. We also sent a letter to the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, urging the American administration to demand accountability from the attackers and from Israeli authorities.

Yesh Din Launches New Regional Project on Israeli Shepherding Outposts



Yesh Din field researcher, Maisoon Badawi (center), leads a workshop on legal rights awareness for women in Kafr Malik on May 29 as part of the new project.

Continuing prior research undertaken by Yesh Din, which resulted in the publication of our 2022 report on shepherding outposts [see: [Plundered Pastures](#)], Yesh Din has launched a new project aimed at documenting and challenging the threat these outposts pose to Palestinian's rights and community resilience. The project is in collaboration with Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHRI), with whom we previously collaborated in our fruitful project on [Forcible Home Invasions](#). Yesh Din & PHRI are focusing on a specific group of communities east of Ramallah and along the 'Alon road', from Taybeh in the south to Duma in the north and all of the Bedouin and herding communities in between. These communities will benefit from legal aid and principled legal actions against the outposts that are depriving

them of their livelihood and safety, and also receive workshops on legal rights and community resilience strengthening.

Yesh Din's staff was devastated when, beginning on May 23, rampant settler violence stemming from nearby shepherding outposts, finally resulted in the [forcible displacement of an entire community of Palestinian shepherds in Ein Samiya](#) - consisting of about 200 people. We have been regularly visiting Ein Samiya as part of our work on this project, and we will continue to support its former inhabitants and to include their crucial testimonies in this project and in our future legal challenges against Israel's support for these criminal outposts.

Israel Promotes the Renewal of the Homesh Settlement Amid State-Backed Settler Violence



For over a decade, Yesh Din has represented the residents of Burqa in their struggle to evacuate the illegal and violent outpost Homesh, which sits on their privately owned lands. As part of our [ongoing High Court petition](#) from 2019, the state has recognized the rightful landowners, and repeatedly promised that the outpost would be evacuated when the 'timing was right'. However, after the election of the current government, the state announced in our most recent High Court hearing in January that it no longer intends to evacuate the outpost and in fact would undertake to amend existing laws in order to

[establish a new settlement there](#). Subsequently, and despite Yesh Din's [intensive advocacy efforts](#), the Knesset voted to cancel significant clauses of the Disengagement Law, which had stipulated the original evacuation of the settlement in 2005, and which has effectively removed the ban on Israelis from residing in the area of the illegal outpost.

On May 24, Yesh Din & Peace Now led a delegation of diplomats from the EU on a solidarity visit to Burqa's village council and to see the criminal outpost themselves. In an attack which is increasingly characteristic of settler violence throughout the West Bank, later that night, settlers, accompanied by soldiers, [invaded the village](#) and burned several homes and other structures. The next morning, residents of Burqa documented large-scale construction taking place in Homesh, reportedly with the approval of Ministers Smotrich and Gallant and in violation of the law. Construction in Homesh is now advancing rapidly, with reports in early June that the outpost has been [hooked up to water](#) infrastructure. Yesh Din [sent an urgent letter](#) to Attorney General Baharav-Miara, demanding criminal investigations be opened against the relevant officials.

Despite the Israeli government's glaring alliance with the settlers of Homesh and its policy of rewarding violent lawbreakers with stolen land, Yesh Din continues our public and legal advocacy efforts to fight for the rights of the landowners. Our persistent communications with the diplomatic community have resulted in public condemnations issued against the 'regularization' of Homesh by the [US](#), [EU](#), [France](#), [Norway](#), [Germany](#), and many more states. We recently launched a new website with detailed information about the case and we urge you to read and share this information to support our struggle for justice [here](#).

New Joint Report by 17 Leading Israeli NGOs: State of the Occupation Year 56: A Joint Situation Report

In a first-ever report of its kind, 17 leading Israeli civil society organizations, including Yesh Din, have released a report with a set of joint conclusions concerning the entrenchment of the occupation and apartheid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories from four different angles: acceleration of annexation; violence by Israeli security forces; state-sanctioned displacement; and attacks against human rights NGOs. The organizations are calling for immediate action from the international community.

Read the full report [here](#).

Joint policy paper: What Israel's 37th government's guiding principles and coalition agreements mean for the West Bank

Early in 2023, Yesh Din published a joint policy analysis together with The Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Ofek – The Israeli Center for Public Affairs and Breaking the Silence. The [policy paper](#) offers an overview of the planned measures that emerged from the coalition agreements signed by the new Israeli ruling coalition in December and January, along with an analysis of their impact on the human rights of Palestinians in the West Bank. The analysis focuses on plans for annexation, settlement expansion, reduced accountability for security forces and settlers, and shrinking democratic space within Israel's sovereign borders, concluding that the current government is set to further entrench the regime of apartheid in the West Bank. This analysis was used as the basis for massive advocacy efforts

undertaken with key stakeholders in the international community in the first months of 2023.

Featured media items and publications

Listen:

Yesh Din Executive Director Ziv Stahl interviewed by Peter Beinart on [this episode of Occupied Thoughts](#) Podcast, discussing the new Israeli government's plans and policies on settlement expansion, annexation and the impacts of the lives of Palestinians in Area C. Ziv also discusses the deepening challenges facing human rights organizations and their employees (watch a video version [here](#)).

In [another episode](#) of Occupied Thoughts podcast, Ziv is interviewed by Kristin McCarthy, Director of Grants & Operations for FMEP, about settler violence, including its strategic purpose, its devastating impact on Palestinians, and the near-complete lack of accountability or protection provided by the Israeli police and army (watch a video version [here](#)).

Read:

[Op ed](#) by Adv. Michael Sfard, Yesh Din's legal advisor about the Israeli public's demand for democracy in the face of the occupation's 56th year.

Article about the [recent illegal activity in the Homesh](#), including settlers relocating the illegal Yeshiva onto 'state-land', a few hundred meters from where it was previously, in order to promote its legal status.

See our updated [Annexation Legislation Database](#) to gain an understanding of how Israel is also implementing annexation through legislation which applies Israeli sovereignty over occupied territory.

[Click here to support us with a donation](#)

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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.



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