Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

The Annexation Files: A New Database on Israeli Annexation and Olive Harvest Update

Access the Annexation Files Database Here!

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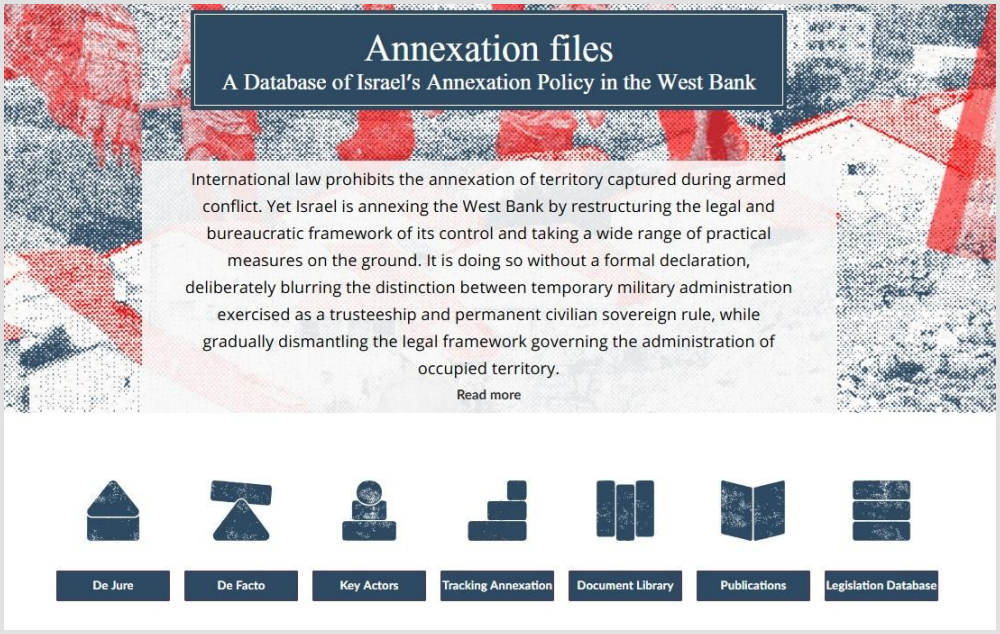
The Annexation Files: A New Database of Israel's Annexation Policy in the West Bank

The Annexation Files document over 100 different annexation measures advanced by Israel since 2023, analyses of de jure and de facto annexation, profiles of key actors, a legislation database, a library of official documents and other sources and annexation related publications.

Yesh Din is launching its new online project, Annexation Files: A Database of Israel's Annexation Policy in the West Bank. Over the past

four years, the government has advanced and accelerated a cumulative series of legislative, administrative, budgetary measures alongside actions on the ground advancing the annexation of the West Bank. While the international community continues to discuss a two-state solution, the Israeli government has used these years to build a **critical mass** of facts on the ground that entrench permanent Israeli control over the West Bank without granting Palestinians equal political rights. By gathering these materials in one place, the project enables policymakers, diplomats, researchers, journalists and the public to trace the interconnected measures through which Israel is advancing annexation and their consequences for Palestinian rights.

By connecting the dots between seemingly separate measures, Yesh Din seeks to demonstrate that annexation is not merely a future possibility: it is already being implemented through policies that entrench Israeli control over the West Bank and progressively integrate it into Israel's civilian and administrative systems.



The project examines the shift from what was often described as “creeping annexation” to a more accelerated and explicit effort to transform the structures of governance in the Occupied Territory. While Israel has long expanded settlements, taken control of land and resources, and established facts on the ground, we can see an acceleration under the current government. In particular, the transfer of powers over civilian affairs from the military to civilian bodies directly subordinate to the Israeli government marks a fundamental change: Israel is increasingly exercising permanent civilian authority over the territory and the population. The goal is to gradually replace the framework of temporary military occupation with permanent civilian governing mechanisms. This change aligns with the government’s declared intention to advance annexation.

A key feature of the project is its emphasis on how different measures work together. Settlement expansion, settler violence, changes to legal and administrative arrangements, the exercise of sovereign powers and the takeover of Palestinian land are presented as interconnected elements of a broader policy. Together, these measures consolidate Israeli control while fragmenting Palestinian territory and restricting Palestinians’ ability to exercise their rights, including their right to self-determination. **The database therefore offers a framework for understanding individual measures as part of a wider process rather than as separate technical or administrative changes**.

The project situates these developments within a clear framework of international law. Under the law of occupation, Israel cannot acquire sovereignty over occupied territory, and its authority as an occupying power cannot be used to entrench permanent control. In its July 2024 Advisory Opinion, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) concluded that Israel’s policies and practices amount to the annexation of large

parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, violate the prohibition on acquiring territory by force and undermine the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The Court further found that Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful and that it must bring this presence to an end as rapidly as possible. The transfer of authority from military to Israeli civilian institutions must therefore be understood not as a neutral administrative change, but as part of a process that entrenches permanent control in violation of fundamental principles of international law.

Israel seeks to exercise sovereign control over land, planning, resources and infrastructure across most of the West Bank, while pushing the millions of Palestinians living there into separate, densely populated enclaves. These annexation measures entrench Israeli control and prevent the Palestinian people from exercising their internationally recognized right to self-determination.

Read more about contemporary annexation practices in Yesh Din's report Maximum Territory, Minimum Population: The annexation of the West Bank through settlement, violence and the fragmentation of Palestinian space

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852 incidents of Settler Violence in 5 Weeks, including 414 Directly Related to the Olive Harvest



Almost half of all settler violence incidents recorded by Yesh Din between September 27 and October 31 (35 days) were related to the olive harvest. The violence targeting Palestinian harvesters, the prevention of access to their groves and the theft of their produce are not random, uncontrollable or a coincidence. The impunity and support provided by Israeli forces to the settlers enables them to execute their ultimate plan for the West Bank. The goal is annexation, the strategy is dispossession and the method is violence.

Key Data - September 27 to October 31:

Settler Violence:

- 852 incidents of settler violence in just 35 days (5 weeks)
- 24.3 incidents per day on average
- Across over 204 Palestinian communities in the West Bank

Harvest Related:

- 414 incidents of settler violence related to the olive harvest.
- 11.8 incidents per day on average.
- Israeli soldiers were involved or present in almost one in four of settler attacks (23.6%).

Many Palestinian families depend on the olive harvest yield as their main source of income for the rest of the year. These alarming numbers indicate extreme levels of violence and access restrictions, resulting in a high risk to Palestinian farmers and is ultimately trying to coerce them to leave their homes and give up on their land.

Below is a breakdown of harvest related incident types throughout the period. Please note that one settler violent incident may include multiple violations.

• 180 incidents involving violence against and attacks on olive harvesters.
• 136 incidents in which settlers and/or soldiers prevented Palestinians from harvesting.
• 203 incidents of crop theft and property damage.
• 65 incidents involving damage to olive trees.

We call on the international community to demand that the Israeli government fulfill its duty in providing Palestinian farmers access to their trees, guarantee their safety as they harvest, and hold perpetrators of violence accountable.

[The data is based on documentation by Yesh Din field researchers, verified reports from the field, and cross-checking of publications and public reports from various sources]

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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For any enquiries, please contact Jack Munayer: jackm@yesh-din.org

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