



Yesh Din

Volunteers for Human Rights

Settler Violence and Restrictions at the Onset of the Olive Harvest and Invitation to Upcoming Court Hearings

8.10.2026

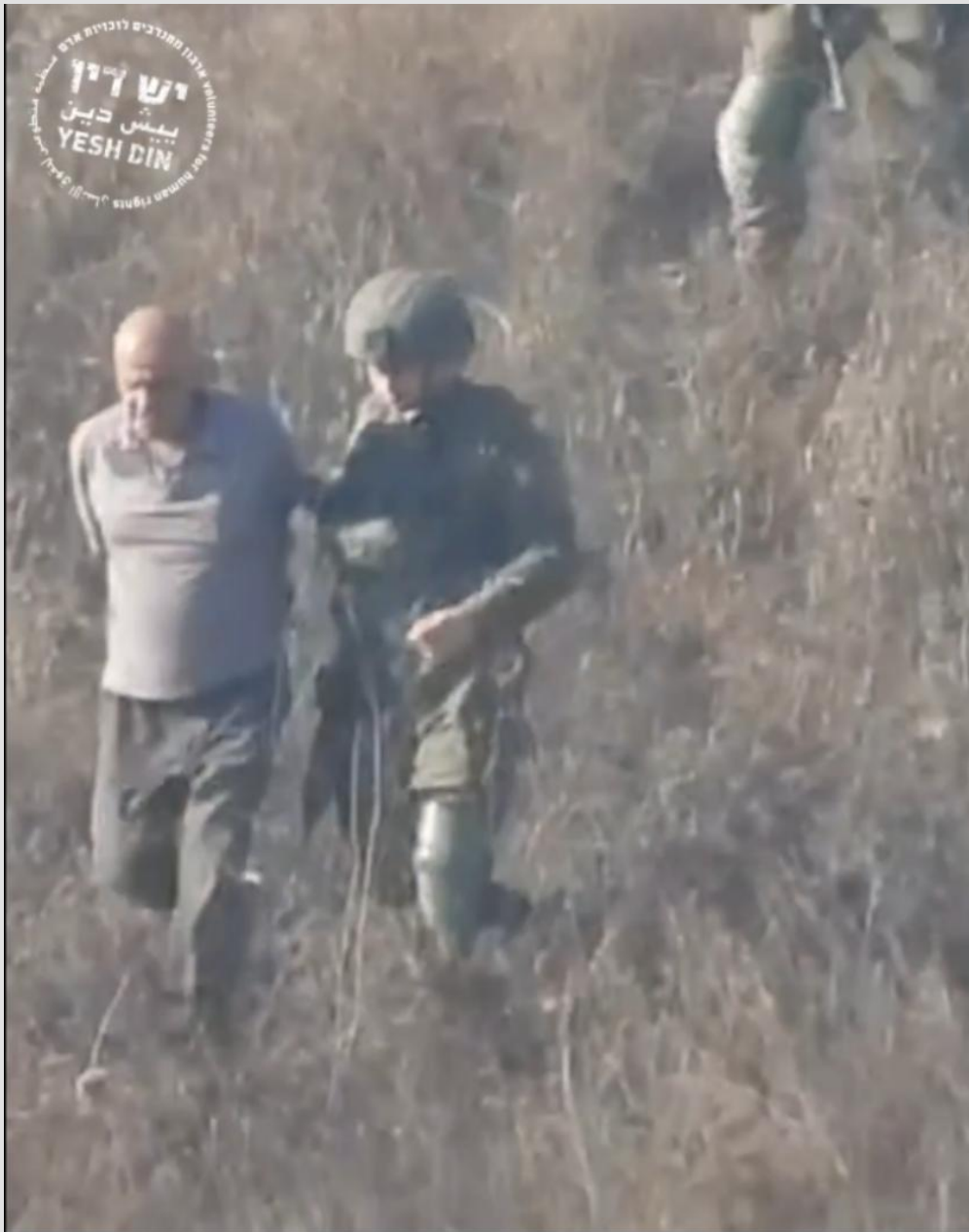
Violence and Access Restrictions Against Palestinians at the Onset of the Olive Harvest

Rampant settler and soldier violence, as well as access restrictions, have taken place in the lead-up to the annual Palestinian olive harvest, which is just over a week away from its official start date. Between September 27 and October 6, 2026, Yesh Din recorded a total of **109 incidents of settler and soldier violence related to the olive harvest across 75 Palestinian communities. This averages 10.9 incidents per day.** The incidents included:

- 21 incidents involving violence against and attacks on olive harvesters.
- 24 incidents in which settlers and/or soldiers prevented Palestinians from harvesting.
- 75 incidents of crop theft and property damage.
- 22 incidents involving damage to olive trees.

[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]

These alarming numbers indicate that this harvest is set to be marked by extreme levels of violence and access restrictions, resulting in a high risk to Palestinian farmers and a significant loss of a vital source of livelihood.



On October 3, 2026, four Palestinians from the village of Burin were arrested for harvesting olives from their own private land. An armed settler in uniform from the nearby settlement of Yitzhar summoned military forces to the area. [\[click to watch video\]](#)

The olive harvest season, which officially begins on October 15, is a national and cultural symbol and a vital, often exclusive source of

income for many Palestinians in the West Bank. It is also a time of increased settler violence against Palestinians, including physical attacks on harvesters, damage to trees, and the theft of crops and farming equipment. Soldiers are often present during these incidents, but instead of protecting Palestinians as they are obligated to do, they sometimes join forces with the assailants.

On September 29, the Civil Administration published the map showing the closure orders for the olive harvest season in the West Bank. This year, the orders, also known as the “coordination mechanism”, cover approximately 90,000 dunams, an area equal to the combined area of Tel Aviv-Yafo, Ramat Gan, and Herzliya. Throughout these areas, the military prevents Palestinian landowners from accessing their privately owned land without “coordination.” What may seem like another routine set of military orders in the occupied territory is, in fact, a [draconian bureaucratic mechanism](#) that reinforces the violent reality on the ground.

The area covered by this year’s closure orders under the “coordination mechanism” has increased by approximately 10,000 dunams compared with last year. This is unsurprising: the increase reflects the rapid expansion of outposts across the West Bank, which bring systematic violence against Palestinians.

Many farmers will face restrictions imposed by the military through the ‘coordination mechanism.’ Originally intended to ensure landowners could access their land and protect them from settler violence, the mechanism often prevents them from fully harvesting their crops. Access is limited to an inappropriately short period, often granted only to landowners, not their families, and without the necessary equipment. At the same time, severe restrictions on freedom of movement

throughout the West Bank already make it difficult to reach agricultural land. In addition, settler violence, which has escalated since October 2023, is likely to deter Palestinians from harvesting their crops for fear of being attacked.

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.



Stealing olives in Beitillu

Oct 5, 2026 - Together with local village councils, Yesh Din documented 5 separate incidents of olive theft in 5 different areas across the West Bank in just 24 hours. All of them were carried out in broad daylight, with the perpetrators' faces clearly visible. [\[click to watch video\]](#)

Invitation for the International Community to Observe Key Court Hearings

We highly encourage the diplomatic community to attend an upcoming court hearing. Diplomats who are interested in attending this hearing with Yesh Din are welcome to write to Jack Munayer (contact details at the end of this message).

The hearing regarding the Takeover of Homes in Area B will take place on 21 October 2026 at 11:30 at the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem (Awad et al. v. Commander of Military Forces in the West Bank et al.).

In August 2025, settlers established an illegal outpost called “Kfar Tarfon” near the homes of two families from the Palestinian village of Atara in Area B of the West Bank. The settlers then regularly attacked and harassed the families.

The ongoing and escalating violence since the establishment of the outpost has led to forcing the families out of their homes. The homeowners have filed numerous complaints with the police and military, but every case opened was closed immediately. Settlers have broken into the homes, vandalized the security cameras, destroyed property in the yard, stolen furniture and the contents of the homes, and eventually taken them over.

After repeated appeals to the military and the police yielded no result,

in July 2026 the homeowners, with Yesh Din's assistance, [petitioned](#) the High Court of Justice, demanding that the Court order the authorities to fulfill their duty: remove the Israeli invaders from the homes and protect the Palestinian families from settler violence.

This case relates to a broad pattern that Yesh Din has covered in our recent report: [The Next Frontier: Violence by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in Areas A and B](#). Since 2024, outposts have been spreading into Area B, and their number now exceeds 20. More recently, outposts have also begun to be established in Area A. The expansion into Area B is publicly supported by senior ministers and actively provided with protection, backed and funded by the Israeli government, the military, and other official bodies.

As outposts encroached into new areas, settler violence extended its reach as well. Yesh Din data from 2025 and 2026 show that a growing share of the settler violence incidents documented by the organization now occur in Areas A and B. In 2026, about two-thirds (62.6%) of the incidents of violence against Palestinians documented by Yesh Din took place in Areas A or B.

Other Court Hearing Dates of Interest:

12 October 2026 at 9:00 – **Severe access restrictions to Al-Mughayir** (Head of the Al-Mughayir Village Council v. Military Commander in the West Bank). [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.

13 October 2026 at 11:30 – the Murder of Ali Harb. On August 5, 2024, Ali Harb's father filed a High Court [petition](#) via Yesh Din, demanding the accused be prosecuted for manslaughter and obstruction of justice. The ongoing petition presents a detailed analysis of the sequence of events.

14 October 2026 at 11:30 – Emergency Hotline: Hearing Ahead of the Olive Harvest (Yesh Din v. Military Commander of the West Bank et al.). On October 30, 2025, Yesh Din [petitioned](#) the High Court of Justice, demanding that the military assign an official tasked with and authorized to respond when Palestinians' rights are harmed and immediate intervention is necessary, and that it publish contact information in Hebrew and Arabic for parties tasked with handling urgent calls, who shall be on call 24/7. Despite the urgency of the issue and the numerous incidents detailed in the petition demonstrating the dire need, a year later there is still no adequate emergency response.

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](#)

[Follow Yesh Din on Twitter](#)

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

Yesh Din is required by law to make the following statement:

Yesh Din is mostly funded by foreign governmental entities - through grants devoted to the provision of humanitarian assistance and the promotion of human rights. A list of our donors is available on the Israeli Associations Register's website and on Yesh Din's website.

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.



Copyright © 2026 Yesh Din, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you signed up through our website

Our mailing address is:

Yesh Din
PO Box 50304
Tel Aviv 6150201
Israel

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)
