

Protection Risk Assessment in the West Bank

Introduction

Since October 2023, the West Bank has witnessed an unprecedented escalation in Israeli measures and settler attacks that have profoundly affected the core of Palestinian civilian life. These developments have significantly reshaped the social, economic, and service landscape. Israel has imposed a complex system of checkpoints, closures, and movement restrictions that have partially or entirely paralysed public and social services, generating cumulative impacts that threaten the resilience, stability, and development of Palestinian society.

At the same time, Israel has pursued policies aimed at economically constraining the Palestinian Authority through the withholding of clearance revenues, “Maqassa”, and the imposition of restrictions on the Palestinian economy and banking sector.

Testimonies collected by the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Society in February 2026 across several West Bank governorates provide clear evidence of serious violations of international humanitarian law. These violations include acts prohibited under international law, such as torture, degrading and humiliating treatment, and the forced displacement of civilians from their places of residence. As the occupying power, Israel is obligated to ensure the protection and humane treatment of civilians under its control.

Interviews conducted for this assessment reveal systematic patterns of violations committed by Israeli occupation forces and settlers. These include the arbitrary and excessive use of force, such as firing at unarmed civilians, physical assaults, collective punishment measures, house demolitions, destruction of agricultural land, and the expansion of settlements.

Protection monitoring further revealed a high level of cooperation between Israeli authorities and settler groups in attacks targeting Palestinian communities, particularly those residing in Area C, including Bedouin communities. These actions appear to form part of broader efforts to depopulate these areas, forcibly displace residents, tighten restrictions, and undermine the rights and livelihoods of Palestinian communities.

Additionally, ongoing military operations lasting more than a year in refugee camps in the northern West Bank, particularly Jenin, Tulkarm, and Nur Shams, have significantly fostered harm to civilians. These operations have resulted in massive destruction,

displacement, loss of life, and an uncertain outlook regarding the restoration of community structures and normal living conditions.

Survey findings, field interviews conducted for this report, and data from local and international organizations indicate an increasing level of risk facing women and girls. These risks include physical and psychological violence perpetrated by members of Israeli forces as well as by settlers, particularly in Bedouin communities located in Area C.

These persistent and arbitrary practices contribute to the fragmentation of communities, the erosion of livelihoods, and immense psychological pressure on Palestinian families. This situation underscores the urgent need for accountability for the actions of Israeli occupation authorities, preventive interventions, and stronger international engagement to protect civilians and uphold their rights in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied Palestinian territory¹.

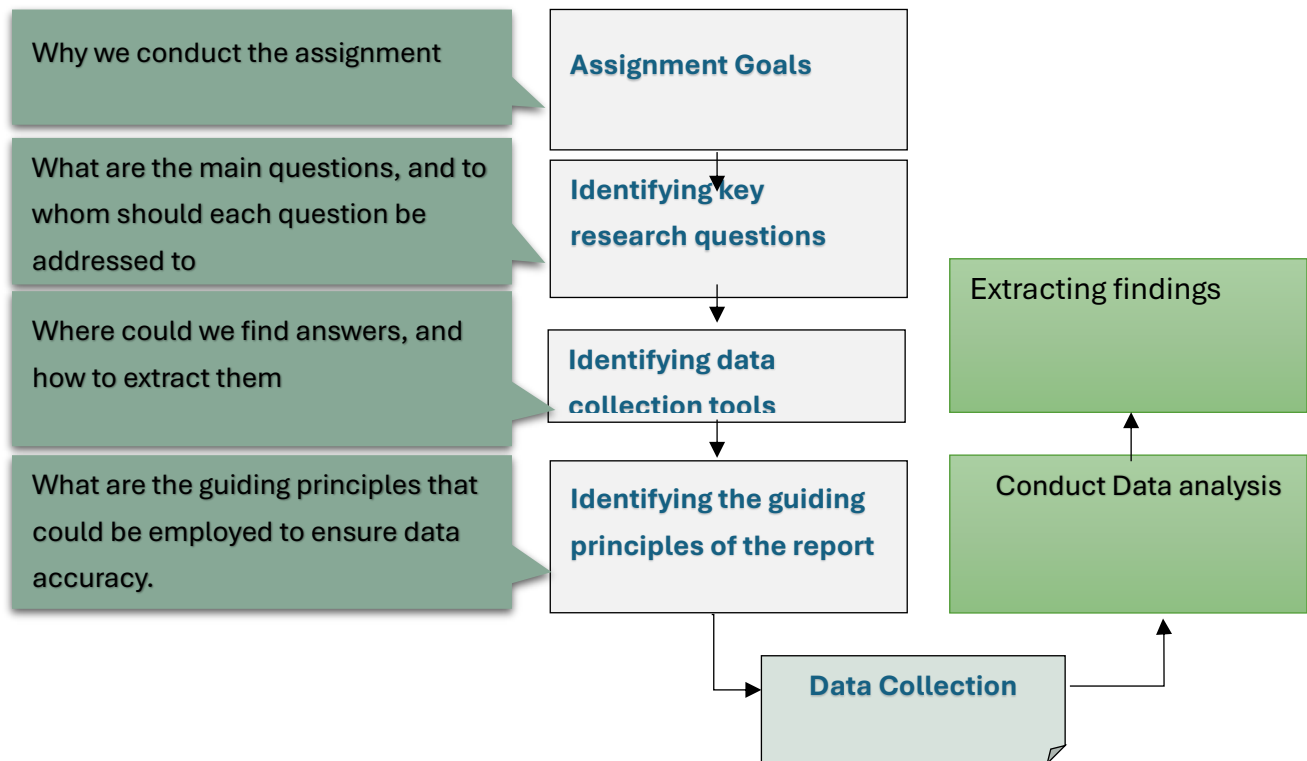
Methodology

This study adopts a mixed-methods research approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methods to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by Palestinian communities and to generate practical, actionable recommendations.

The methodology aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the risks affecting Palestinian citizens in areas threatened by settlement expansion.

¹ See *United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/88 on the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to the other occupied Arab territories*.

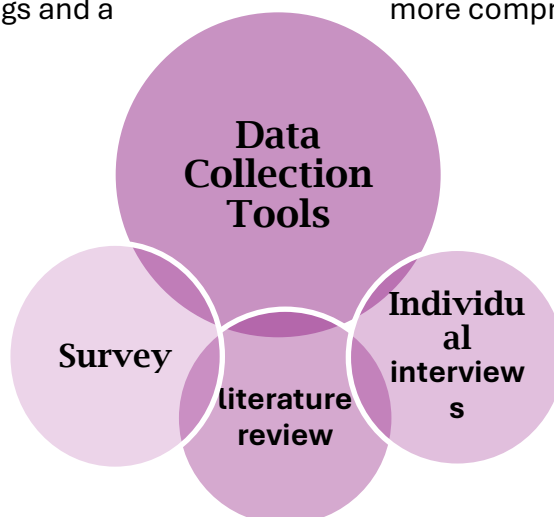
Figure 1: Study Methodology



The research team designed and implemented survey tools and protocols for Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and individual interviews, based on the main research questions and the scope of the study.

Figure 2: Data Collection Tools

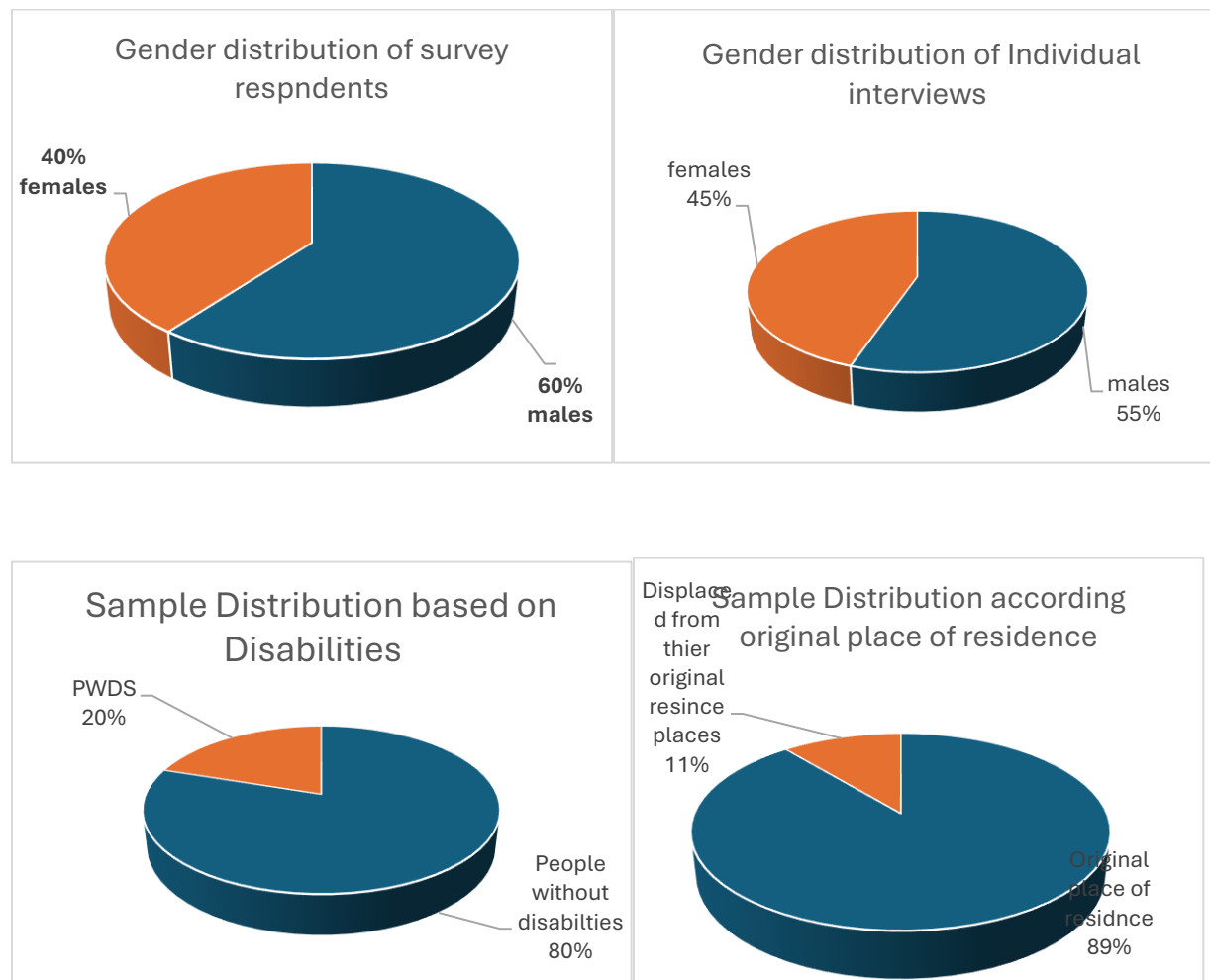
The data collection process included both quantitative and qualitative tools to ensure triangulation of findings and a more comprehensive understanding of protection risks.



Sample Characteristics

The findings of this study are based on a quantitative survey of 201 respondents (80 women and 121 men) and 47 in-depth qualitative interviews (21 women and 26 men).

Data was collected between 4 and 20 February 2026 across 11 governorates in the West Bank, namely: Tulkarm, Qalqilya, Tubas, Salfit, Nablus, Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Jenin.



Data was collected by Community Protection Committees established by the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Association, which works directly with local communities across the West Bank. These committees enabled the research team to overcome significant challenges in data collection, particularly movement restrictions imposed by checkpoints and other security risks.

Leveraging their contextual knowledge, the committees documented evidence regarding groups most vulnerable to settler violence and forced displacement by the Israeli military. These groups include:

- Bedouin communities
- Pastoral communities
- Farmers
- Communities located in areas exposed to forced displacement and home demolitions, particularly in Area C.

This protection monitoring report aims to support evidence-based programming in the West Bank. It is not intended to document violations reported in the West Bank between 7 October 2023 and the date of this report's preparation.

General Context in the West Bank

The annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights indicates that the Israeli army continued to use excessive force during law enforcement operations in violation of international human rights and international humanitarian law².

According to the report, between November 2024 and 31 October 2025, Israeli forces killed 255 Palestinians in the West Bank, including:

- 200 men
- 8 women
- 2 girls
- 3 persons with disabilities

² See the annual report of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights entitled “*Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Obligation to Ensure Accountability and Justice*,” submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council at its 61st session, held from 23 February to 2 April (document: A/HRC/61/26).

A report published by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on 27 November 2025³ documented a significant increase in injuries among Palestinians resulting from settler attacks.

According to the report:

- 733 Palestinians were injured by settler attacks in 2025, compared with
- 362 Palestinians injured in 2024.

These figures reflect an approximately 340% increase in settler-related injuries over the past five years.

Recorded injuries due to settler attacks in the West Bank were:

- 168 in 2021
- 289 in 2022
- 373 in 2023
- 362 in 2024
- 733 in 2025

Reports also indicate a dramatic rise in settler violence incidents:

- 1600 attacks in 2025
- 1449 attacks in 2024
- compared with 852 attacks in 2022⁴

The 2025 Annual Report of the Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission⁵ documented 23,827 violations committed by Israeli forces and settlers against Palestinian citizens and their property across the West Bank.

These violations included:

- 16,664 attacks targeting individuals

³ See [West Bank Monthly Snapshot - Casualties, Property Damage and Displacement | September 2025 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - Occupied Palestinian Territory](#)

⁴ See the latest humanitarian update No. 343 | West Bank | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territory.

⁵ "See the Anti-Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission – Annual Report on Occupation Violations 2025."

- 5,398 attacks against property
- 1,382 attacks against land and agricultural areas

The Israeli army carried out 18,384 of these incidents, while settlers carried out 4,723 attacks, with 720 incidents involving direct cooperation between both parties.

Settler attacks in 2025 resulted in:

- 14 Palestinian fatalities
- 434 deliberate fires targeting Palestinian property and fields, including:
 - 307 fires in private property
 - 127 fires in agricultural lands ,most of which targeted Lands in Ramallah, Nablus, Hebron and Tulkarem.

Additionally, 892 incidents involving the uprooting, destruction, or poisoning of 35,273 trees were documented, including 26,988 olive trees, directly targeting both the economic and symbolic significance of Palestinian land.

The Israeli terror did not stop at the level of economic destruction. These attacks also resulted in the forced displacement of 13 Palestinian Bedouin communities, comprising 197 families (1,090 individuals), reflecting a systematic policy aimed at forcibly removing Palestinians from their lands in favor of settlement expansion.

In terms of land control, 2025 represented an advanced stage in the use of any military and legal tools possible to forcibly and systematically reshape the Palestinian geography. During the year, the occupying authorities seized 5,572 dunams of citizens' land through 94 "seizure orders" for military purposes, in addition to 3 confiscation "Expropriation" orders and 4 state land declaration orders. This clearly underscores the use of "security necessity" and "public benefit" as legal pretexts to legitimise confiscation, turning exceptional measures into a permanent policy.

These orders were neither isolated nor temporary; rather, they were geographically distributed in ways that served the expansion of settlements, secured their surroundings, and colonial roads that further fragmented Palestinian land and disrupted its natural continuity. Simultaneously, the occupation authorities allocated 16,733 dunams of previously confiscated land for settler grazing, revealing a dangerous evolution in control mechanisms. Agricultural and pastoral activities are being transformed into active colonial tools for land seizure. Grazing, which is superficially presented as an economic activity, is

in practice used to impose field control, displace Palestinians from their land, and prepare open spaces for later annexation and settlement expansion⁶.

Background on International Legal Standards⁷

In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel is the occupying power, and its actions are subject to obligations under international law, the Fourth Geneva Convention and occupation law.

During the implementation of security operations in the West Bank, including so-called searches and arrests, Israeli forces must respect human rights, including the right to life, personal security, freedom of expression, and peaceful assembly. These actions must also comply with international standards that guide law enforcement officers in respecting human rights, such as the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force, and weapons by Law Enforcement Officials.

These standards prohibit the use of force by law enforcement officers except when strictly necessary and to the extent required to perform their duties. Weapons must only be used as a last resort, when absolutely necessary for military or police personnel to protect themselves or others from imminent death or serious injury. Use of deadly weapons is only permitted when it is unavoidable to save lives. Intentionally killing protected persons or deliberately causing severe suffering or serious injury to protected persons constitute a grave violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and qualifies as a war crime.

The advisory opinion issued by the International Court of Justice in July 2024 ⁸confirmed unequivocally that Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is illegal and must end immediately. States should replace statements with tangible action: they must immediately stop supplying Israel with weapons and military support, suspend all commercial activities that contribute to its serious violations of international law, support the work of the International Criminal Court, and fully cooperate with its investigations into crimes under international law and the prosecution of perpetrators in Palestine.

⁶ Previous source

⁷ "See Amnesty International, 'Shocking Rise in Unlawful Force Used by Israeli Forces Against Palestinians in the Occupied West Bank' – Amnesty International."

⁸ International Court of Justice (July 2024), Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, available at: [Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024](#)

Protection Risks

Safety and Security

95% of survey respondents indicated that they did not feel safe, or felt extremely unsafe, in their residential areas. Only 4% reported feeling safe; of these, one respondent said they felt largely safe, and 1% were unsure about their sense of safety. Interviews conducted in areas adjacent to settlements or exposed to settler attacks with 47 individuals confirmed a deterioration in conditions over the past two years across all locations. Participants attributed this decline to settler violence and attacks on homes and agricultural areas, Israeli military incursions, and the presence of checkpoints that limit access to other areas.

A respondent from the village of Kefl Haris, Salfit Governorate, stated:

"The risks are multiple: attacks on private and public property, throwing stones at houses, vandalising cars, destroying public facilities, attacking water pipelines, dumping solid waste in agricultural fields located in Area C, uprooting olive trees, and preventing residents from accessing their lands in contact areas."

These findings, supported by testimonies, reveal systematic violations of international humanitarian law. Field evidence indicates clear and repeated patterns of abuse, underscoring the urgent need for accountability and the protection of Palestinian civilians.

Arbitrary Violence and Humiliating Treatment

Testimonies from respondents indicate that settler violence reached unprecedented levels in the past year across the West Bank. Among 201 survey respondents, 190 (95%) reported experiencing violent incidents within the past three months, often occurring multiple times.

OCHA reports⁹ further detail the range of attacks against civilians, including intimidation, beatings, the release of aggressive dogs into Palestinian communities, shooting at civilians, throwing Molotov cocktails, burning Palestinian property such as homes, vehicles, trees, and agricultural facilities, land destruction, uprooting trees, and stealing crops. Several injuries and fatalities of Palestinians at the hands of settlers were also documented. A respondent from Beit Lid/Tulkarm said:

"Settlers destroyed a significant part of the land and my personal crops. A group of settlers drove their animals onto agricultural lands and grazed there."

⁹ See Publications | [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territory.](#)

Testimonies also indicate Israeli army complicity with settlers, sometimes manifesting as implicit collusion, where the army witnesses settler attacks without intervention. Settler attacks often occur under the protection of Israeli forces. A respondent from Kefel Haris stated:

"The town was raided by settlers with the protection of occupation forces, which led to the closure of the town, restriction of citizens' movement, closure of shops, attacks on some residents, detention of individuals, and damage to village property."

Another respondent from Khirbet Tana/Nablus described:

"We were subjected to a raid by settlers who besieged people, fired shots, and conducted violent searches. People were brutally beaten over a period of four hours, with continuous harassment and shooting over their heads."

"More than 1,000 Palestinians have been injured in settler attacks so far in 2025, more than double the number of Palestinians injured in settler attacks during 2024."

Latest Humanitarian Update No. 343 | West Bank | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territory, 23/11/2025

A respondent from Al-Burj town/Hebron, said:

"Every day we are exposed to violence. Every day we see attacks by settlers and the army. Imagine, they can knock on your door, call your name, tell you to leave, give you a paper saying 'No entry near the wall, take a picture of you, and threaten you. If you approach or are seen there, they tell you they will arrest you or even kill you, very simply. Even at our funerals, they didn't let us complete the burial. Once the army hit my son, a 17-year-old child, on the head. The child entered a very difficult psychological state. Then they detained him for 12 hours in a very difficult place, like a small shed, with no bathroom, no food, no water, in the cold and rain. He is a child, and after what happened to him, his mental state deteriorated. Even though he was good at school, he became withdrawn because he was so affected. They also destroyed around 40 beehives, grazed 200 olive trees, and prevented people from reaching their lands, neither ploughing nor planting. Recently, they detained about 20 people for 6 to 24 hours. And yesterday, settlers attacked us, grazed on our land, and when my brother-in-law tried to defend us, they humiliated, tied, and detained him."

Testimonies indicate that the reported patterns of settler and Israeli army violations are intertwined. The Israeli government has armed settlers, and some of them serve in the army. A respondent from Beit Lid/Tulkarm stated:

"Some of the town's children and youth were kidnapped by groups of settlers and the army."

Although settler violations have been documented by Israeli¹⁰, Palestinian, and international¹¹ human rights organisations, the occupation forces' failure to prevent settler violence and protect Palestinians became more apparent since October 2023. Settlers have enjoyed near-total impunity under the protection of the Israeli army and full support from the Israeli government, encouraging them and contributing to increased violence and consolidating their illegal presence in Palestinian lands.

In addition to settler attacks, respondents reported multiple types of incidents perpetrated by Israeli occupation forces. 51% said they had been detained or physically harmed at checkpoints, 50% experienced physical assault or targeted violence, 42% were subjected to torture or ill-treatment, 29% reported injuries, 28% described arbitrary detention, and the same percentage experienced military raids on their homes. See the table below.

Extent and Types of Violations Experienced by Citizens in Contact Areas

Type of Violation	Incidents	Percentage
Injury or death due to a military raid	58	28%
Physical assault or violence	100	50%
Physical assault or targeted violence	4	2%
Arbitrary detention	57	28%
Torture or humiliating treatment	85	42%
Detention or physical harm at checkpoints	102	51%
Blackmailing	49	24%
Water source contamination	35	17%
Violence/attack by settlers	35	17%

¹⁰ See B'Tselem – The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, Press Releases. [بيانات صحفية | بتسيلم](#)

¹¹ See Publications | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territory. [منشورات | مكتب الأمم المتحدة لتنسيق الشؤون الإنسانية - الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة](#)

Type of Violation	Incidents	Percentage
Other	148	74%

Under Israeli military law, soldiers may enter Palestinian homes in the West Bank without a judicial warrant, whereas a judicial warrant is required to enter settlers' homes¹². This has enabled hundreds of raids on Palestinian villages and towns each month under the vague pretext of "security purposes." Respondents confirmed that raids are often carried out without justification, with soldiers simply citing "security purposes." Arbitrary searches and raids, including night raids, are widely used by Israeli forces deliberately to humiliate families, instil fear¹³, and intimidate families.

A respondent from Kafr Qaddum, northeast of Qalqilya Governorate, noted the continuation of "ongoing arrests, night and daytime raids, house destruction, and theft of gold and money." Another respondent from Za'atra, south of Bethlehem, reported that "the army raided our neighbours' house at night, and arrested one of their members amidst a state of terror, with women screaming and crying."

Gendered Impacts of Violations

Although Israeli violations, including actions by the Israeli army and settler attacks such as physical assault, arbitrary detention, and other forms of harsh treatment, affect all social groups, men are particularly targeted for attempting to defend themselves and their families during settler attacks, which exposes them to greater violence.

Israeli assaults have increased significantly in the two years following 7 October 2023, particularly affecting women and children. Sexual violence against women has become more evident: four respondents reported sexual harassment by soldiers, especially at

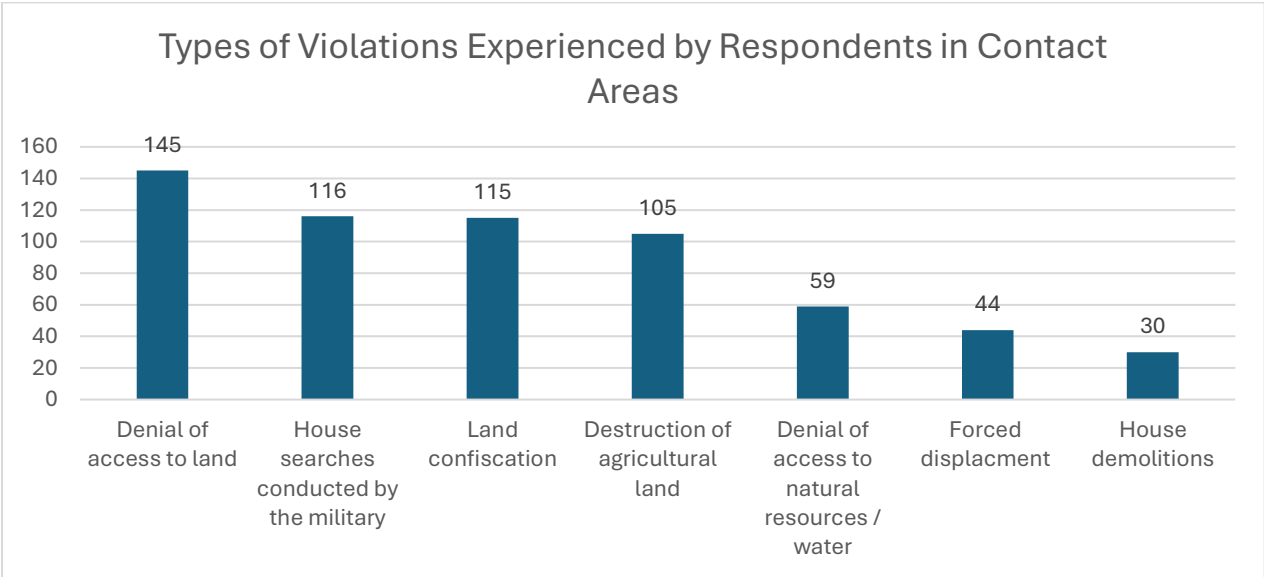
¹² Lawyers of Palestinian Human Rights (23 December 2021), No warrant required to enter Palestinian homes in the West Bank but warrants required to enter settlers' homes, Israeli High Court confirms, available at:

[No warrant required to enter Palestinian homes in the West Bank but warrants required to enter settlers' homes, Israeli High Court confirms - Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights](#)

¹³ United Nations General Assembly (20 September 2024), Report of the Special Committee to investigate Israeli Practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, available at: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/79/363>

checkpoints. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) documented cases of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, against Palestinians detained by Israeli authorities. This included a 12-year-old Palestinian girl who was subjected to humiliating and unjustified searches twice after being arrested for placing “Palestinian slogans” on an Israeli security vehicle.

Detained women reported being subjected to physical assault, repeated and humiliating searches, beatings while in custody, verbal abuse, including sexual insults and threats of rape, overcrowded and unhygienic detention conditions, lack of basic sanitation facilities, deprivation of food and medication, and routine use of solitary confinement. Cells contained doorless toilets and cameras that monitored them directly. Breastfeeding mothers reported being prevented from seeing their children while in detention¹⁴.



Measures of Collective Punishment

Arbitrary detention without due legal process, including measures aimed at forcing civilians to comply, constitutes collective punishment. Human rights organisations’ reports indicate a rising trend in arbitrary arrests of Palestinians during 2024 and 2025. In 2024

¹⁴ See the Annual Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Commitment to Ensure Accountability and Justice*, submitted to the Human Rights Council, 61st Session, 23 February–2 April, p. 13." [a-hrc-61-26-auv-en.pdf](#)

alone, there were more than 8,800 arrests, while since the start of the “genocide war,”¹⁵ the number of arrests in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, reached approximately 14,300.

Among those arrested were 266 women, and since the start of the war, more than 450 women have been detained, with dozens from the Gaza Strip. At least 700 children¹⁶ were arrested in the West Bank, bringing the total number of child detainees since the beginning of the war to 1,055. Additionally, 145 journalists from both the West Bank and Gaza have been detained since the onset of the war.

In 2025, 7,000 Palestinians were arrested, including 200 women and 600 children. Updated statistics from the Palestinian Prisoners and Released Affairs Authority indicate 9,300 detainees, including 70 women, 350 children, and 3,368 administrative detainees¹⁷.

Administrative detention orders, used as a retaliatory punitive policy against large numbers of detainees, have exceeded 10,000 orders since the beginning of the war, including new and renewed orders, and covering both children and women. Many arrests occurred at military checkpoints or during night home raids, while some individuals surrendered under pressure. These arrests have served as a tool of collective punishment against Palestinians¹⁸.

Respondents described military raids in which fathers were detained, leaving children behind shocked and unprotected¹⁹. Some individuals were placed on security monitoring lists—practices intended to deliberately harm family units. Other practices include mass arrests of men and youth during

The routine use of administrative detention, for security reasons without criminal charges or trial, continued to expose Palestinian detainees to prolonged arbitrary deprivation of liberty, torture, and other forms of humiliating treatment and enforced disappearance. In Gaza, thousands of Palestinians, mostly men and older boys, were placed under administrative detention under the “Unlawful Combatants Law,” with no information available regarding their status or legal procedures. Reportedly, only one in four detainees was identified by the army as belonging to the armed wings of Hamas or Palestinian Islamic Jihad, based on unsubstantiated claims; the rest are civilians unaffiliated with either group. In the West Bank, 3,368 Palestinians were under administrative detention under Military Order No. 1651 at the end of the reporting period. Arbitrary detention in armed conflicts, including under occupation, may constitute war crimes, such as the unlawful confinement of a protected person and deliberate deprivation of their right to a fair trial. It may also amount to a crime against humanity if committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against the civilian population.”

See: Annual Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Commitment to Ensure Accountability and Justice, submitted to the Human Rights Council, 61st Session, 23 February–2 April, a-hrc-61-26-aug-en. [a-hrc-61-26-aug-en.pdf](#)

¹⁵ See the Annual Report of the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) for 2024, No. 30, p. 33. [ICHR](#)

¹⁶ See the Prisoners and Released Affairs Authority report, “2025 Year in Review”, 412026.pdf. [412026.pdf](#)

¹⁷ Updated statistics from the Prisoners and Released Affairs Authority, accessed on 2/3/2026, homepage. [الرئيسية](#)

¹⁸ See the Annual Report of the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) for 2024, No. 30, p. 33. [ICHR](#)

¹⁹ See *Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory: Impunity Fuels Israel’s Illegal Annexation Measures in the West Bank* – Amnesty International. [إسرائيل/الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة: الإفلات من العقاب دولياً يوجِّع إجراءات الضم غير القانونية التي تتخذها إسرائيل في الضفة الغربية - منظمة العفو الدولية](#)

military raids, where many are held under administrative detention without charges, which, according to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights²⁰, the imposition of complete closures or curfews on villages and cities following military incursions constitutes another form of collective punishment. In some cases, this situation has continued for several days, leaving residents confined without access to food, medicine, or basic supplies.

A respondent from the village of Jalud, south of Nablus, stated:

"Repeated attacks since the beginning of January 2026 until today have included acts of vandalism, curfews, land confiscations, and preventing access to these lands."

Another respondent from the village of Beit Lid in Tulkarm reported that:

"The entrance to the village was closed, and soldiers were patrolling on foot inside the village."

The intention of the occupying authorities not to protect Palestinians and allowing settlers to act without accountability has created a multi-layered discriminatory system. Palestinians are exposed to violence and criminalisation, while Israeli settlers and soldiers are allowed to act with impunity. Palestinians are largely deprived of effective access to justice when their rights are violated, including in cases of assault and other forms of humiliating treatment, and are left with limited or no options to protect themselves, resulting in a deep sense of helplessness.

These policies and practices form part of a broader system of control that fuels discrimination, denial of rights, and the deprivation of Palestinians' ability to make decisions affecting their lives. This constitutes a serious violation of international law²¹.

Forcible Transfer and Violations of Housing, Land, and Property (HLP)

90% of survey respondents (180 out of 201) reported that they, a family member, or a neighbour had experienced incidents or violations related to land and property during the past three months. These included being prevented from accessing their land after agricultural areas were declared a "security zone" or "firing zone," or through the confiscation of fields under the designation of "state land" or by means of "military orders."

²⁰ Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General, *Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories*, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its 55th session, held from 26 February to 6 April 2024. [Document Viewer](#)

²¹ See the Annual Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *The Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Obligation to Ensure Accountability and Justice*, submitted to the Human Rights Council, 61st session, held from 23 February to 2 April." [a-hrc-61-26-auv-en.pdf](#)

Access roads to agricultural lands are often closed, preventing cultivation or olive harvesting. Attempts to reach these fields may lead to arrest or exposure to live ammunition fire.

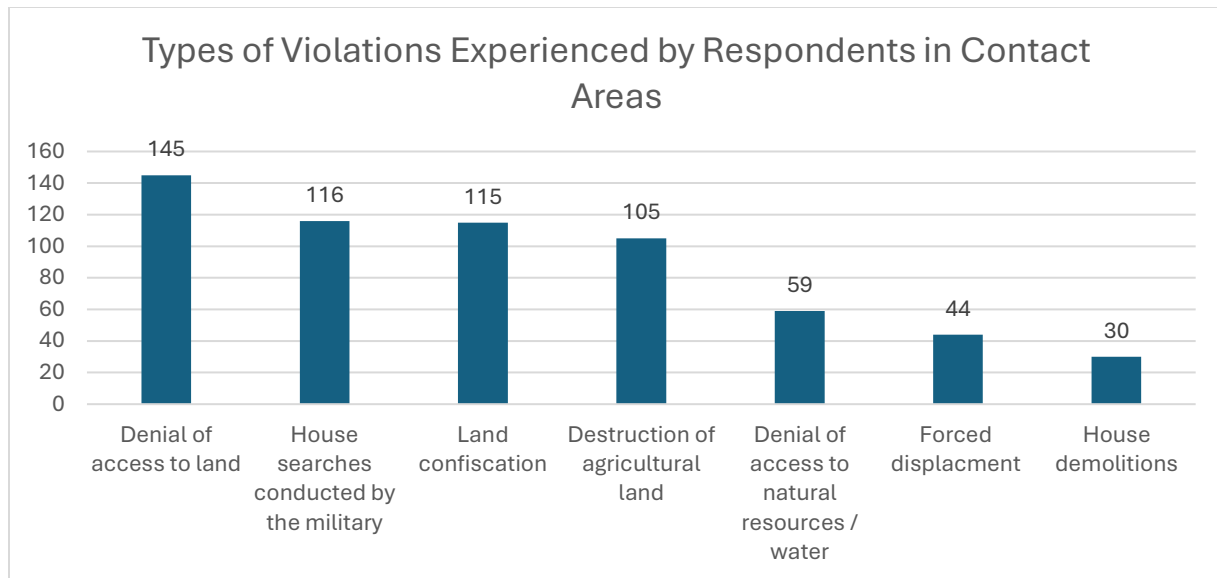
Among those who experienced violations:

- 81% reported being prevented from accessing their lands.
- 64% reported that the army searched their homes.
- 64% stated that their land was confiscated.
- 58% reported that their crops were destroyed.
- 33% indicated that they were denied access to natural resources such as water.
- 24% of those affected reported that they were forced to evacuate their place of residence.
- 17% stated that their homes were demolished.

Types of Land and Property Violations in the Past Three Months

Type of Violation	Number of Incidents	Percentage
Denial of access to land	145	81%
Home searches by the army	116	64%
Land confiscation	115	64%
Destruction of agricultural lands	105	58%
Denial of access to natural resources/water	59	33%
Forced evacuation	44	24%
Houses demolition	30	17%

Types of Violations Experienced by Respondents in Contact Areas”



Reliable media reports indicate that at least three new settlements were established on lands from which Palestinian communities were forcibly displaced, such as *Ein Samia* and *Ras Ein al-Ouja*, due to state-backed settler violence. These settlements are protected by the Israeli army and funded by the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture, turning the lives of Palestinian farmers into a nightmare, particularly in Area C. Settlers in these settlements use force to prevent Palestinian farmers from accessing their pastures, depriving them of basic livelihoods, seizing lands, destroying property, stealing livestock, and attacking Palestinians and their homes²².

A respondent from al-Ramadin, south of Hebron, described the situation:

"Recently, the situation has worsened. Yesterday, the army raided us and told us we were forbidden to access our lands, and threatened that anyone nearby would be in danger. Even Shepards could be imprisoned, and their land and livestock confiscated. The pressure increases every day, and nothing is easing. Not long ago, they demolished about 200 shops along the main road and levelled the area to prevent anyone from setting up a small shelter or livelihood there. Honestly, things are only getting worse, and people no longer know how to survive or where to earn their living."

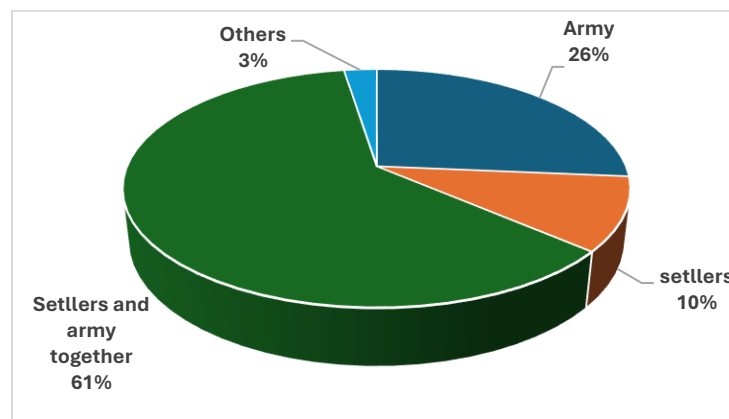
²² See Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory: International Impunity Fuels Israel's Illegal Annexation Measures in the West Bank – Amnesty International. [إسرائيل/الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة: الإفلات من العقاب دوليًا يوجِّع إجراءات الضم غير القانونية التي تتخذها إسرائيل في الضفة الغربية - منظمة العفو الدولية](#)

During the “Iron Wall Operation,”²³ Israeli security forces caused mass displacement of Palestinians in the West Bank at a scale not seen for decades. Residents of refugee camps in Tulkarm, Tubas, and Jenin described how they were taken from their homes under the threat of deadly force and forced to leave their towns. By 31 October 2025, Israeli security forces had issued demolition orders for 436 structures, comprising nearly 1,400 houses in the Jenin, Tulkarm, and Nur Shams camps. Assessments indicated that 602 buildings were completely destroyed, and 1,450 buildings were severely or moderately damaged. This large-scale destruction of property, unjustified by military necessity, constitutes a serious violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

According to the Israeli organisation B’Tselem²⁴, “*Military attacks and settler violence in the West Bank have caused unprecedented displacement of residents since the occupation of the West Bank in 1967. As of 3 March 2026, Israel displaced 53 Palestinian communities, totalling more than 3,713 people from their homes in areas classified as B and C, and 498 additional people were displaced from 14 partially evacuated communities. Earlier in 2025, 40,000 people were forcibly displaced due to army attacks on refugee camps in the northern West Bank, and by February 2026, they were not allowed to return to their homes, much of which had been destroyed during these attacks.*”

Approximately two-thirds of respondents (61%) stated that both the army and settlers were responsible for attacks and violations against civilians. About 26% said the army alone carried out the violations, 10% reported that settlers alone did so, and 2% cited other actors.

Actors Responsible for Violations against Palestinian Civilians in the West Bank



²³ The Israeli military operation in Jenin refugee camp began on 21 January 2025, and later extended to the Tulkarm camps on 27 January, and subsequently to the town of Tammoun and Far’a camp. Although Israeli forces withdrew from Far’a camp on 12 February, they remain stationed in Tulkarm and Jenin. [عنف المستوطنين =](#) [عنف الدولة | بتسيلم](#)

²⁴ See: *Settler Violence = State Violence* | B’Tselem [عنف المستوطنين = عنف الدولة | بتسيلم](#)

"Farmers were forced to leave their lands, lands were confiscated, and water pools and water networks were seized. Thousands of dunams were confiscated," reported a respondent from Bardala village in Tubas.

Settler violence and their expansion worsen the problems. Respondents described how settler Shepards take over grazing lands to establish new settlements, leading to confrontations with Bedouin communities. Farmers reported attacks, theft of livestock, uprooting of trees, damage to crops, and equipment. More than 21 Palestinian communities were partially or fully displaced in 2025 as a result of state-backed settler violence.

In January 2026, 122 families were expelled from Ras Ein al-Ouja, near Jericho, resulting in the forcible displacement of over 600 Palestinians from that community²⁵.

On 8 February 2026, the Israeli Security Cabinet announced a series of measures aimed at expanding control over the West Bank, marking an escalation in Israel's possession of Palestinian lands. These measures included:

- Suspension of Jordanian legislation to allow Israeli settlers to purchase Palestinian land without limitations, approval measures, or oversight.
- Enhancing Israeli Civil Administration control over planning and construction in Hebron city and Rachel's **Tomb** in Bethlehem.
- Granting new enforcement powers at archaeological sites and overwater and environmental issues in Areas A and B.

On 15 February 2026, the Israeli Cabinet issued a decision amounting to de facto annexation under Israeli law, establishing a government mechanism to facilitate land registration in Area C and transferring registration powers from the Civil Administration to the Israeli Ministry of Justice. According to Peace Now, over 58% of the land in Area C remains unregistered. Israel has already seized more than half of the area by designating it as "state land." Palestinians face nearly challenging obstacles to proving ownership, due to Israel's reliance on outdated Ottoman land laws, which require extensive documentation, maps, and records that most Palestinians cannot access²⁶.

Israeli authorities routinely reject the vast majority of Palestinian applications for building permits in Area C, claiming the land is not zoned for construction, even when there is no

²⁵ see: *Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories: International Impunity Fuels Israel's Unlawful Annexation Measures in the West Bank* – Amnesty International [إسرائيل/الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة: الإفلات من العقاب دوليًا](#)
[يُوجِب إجراءات الضم غير القانونية التي تتخذها إسرائيل في الضفة الغربية - منظمة العفو الدولية](#)

²⁶ Previous source

dispute over ownership. As a result, obtaining a building permit is effectively impossible. According to data obtained by Peace Now from the Israeli Civil Administration, only 2% of Palestinian permit applications were approved in Area C between 2009 and 2018 (98 out of 4,422 applications)²⁷.

In parallel, the policy of demolishing Palestinian structures escalated to an unprecedented pace in 2025, with Israeli authorities conducting 538 demolitions, destroying 1,400 structures, including:

- 304 inhabited houses
- 74 uninhabited houses
- 270 economic structures
- 490 agricultural structures

Demolitions were concentrated in the Hebron, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Tubas, and Nablus governorates, reflecting a clear policy aimed at restricting natural Palestinian growth. This was accompanied by the issuance of 991 demolition notices, signalling a potential escalation in the use of planning and permit mechanisms as coercive tools rather than neutral regulatory frameworks²⁸.

Forced displacement affected 30% of the surveyed sample, who reported being compelled to leave their homes due to escalating settler violence supported by occupation authorities or direct military interventions. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Annual Report on the West Bank indicated that at least 31,919 Palestinians were forcibly displaced due to the “Iron Wall Operation.” Israeli authorities issued statements preventing residents from returning, even to retrieve basic property, shooting and detaining anyone attempting to return.

The forcible transfer of civilians within occupied territory constitutes illegal transfer, a serious violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and under certain circumstances may also constitute a crime against humanity²⁹.

²⁷ See: *Most building plans submitted by Palestinians in Area C are not approved* | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territory [معظم المخططات التي يقدمها الفلسطينيون](#) | مكتب الأمم المتحدة لتنسيق الشؤون الإنسانية - الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة [البناء في المنطقة \(ج\) لا تحظى بالموافقة](#) | مكتب الأمم المتحدة لتنسيق الشؤون الإنسانية - الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة

²⁸ See: *Anti-Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission – Annual Report on Occupation Violations 2025* [هيئة مقاومة الجدار والاستيطان - تقرير الانتهاكات الاحتلالية السنوي 2025](#)

²⁹ see: *Annual Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Commitment to Ensure*

Movement Restrictions

Since October 2023, the Israeli occupation has imposed a series of restrictive measures affecting all aspects of daily and humanitarian life for Palestinians in the West Bank. These measures included tightening the siege on Palestinian cities and towns, increasing the number of military checkpoints and gates, and imposing strict restrictions on the movement of individuals and goods. These measures were not merely temporary security steps but part of a broader policy aimed at consolidating control over the West Bank and fragmenting its geography.

All survey and interview participants reported that restrictions on movement across the West Bank have intensified significantly since 7 October 2023. Multiple checkpoints are established on main roads, forcing residents to face delays or detention at different points during a single journey. Of 201 survey participants, 160 (approximately 80%) reported being stopped or delayed at checkpoints at least once in the past three months, with many experiencing detention from once up to 100 times during that period.

In addition to military checkpoints, illegal settlers have established informal checkpoints, further restricting movement, increasing unpredictability, and raising risks. These obstacles often appear suddenly, without prior warning or official notice, and settlers frequently assault vehicles, delay them, or prevent access to destinations.

One respondent from Tana town said: *“A checkpoint was set up by settlers, and people were detained. When a checkpoint is established, movement is completely and entirely halted.”*

Residents rely on word-of-mouth information, social media groups, or local radio traffic bulletins to adapt to the constantly changing restrictions. However, this exposes them to the risk of detention, prevention of access, or confinement.

Israel has tightened its control over inter-governorate mobility, prepared for scenarios of isolation, separation, and control over movement. Movement restrictions have increased, the number of military checkpoints and gates has doubled, and many Palestinian communities have been subjected to near-total isolation. Farmers are often allowed to access their lands within or near settlements at most twice a year, and emergency response is delayed.

At the beginning of 2025, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights reported in a field study on Israeli checkpoints and iron gates in the West Bank that the total number of fixed and

Accountability and Justice, submitted to the Human Rights Council, 61st Session (23 February–2 April). a-hrc-61-26-auv-en.pdf [a-hrc-61-26-auv-en.pdf](#)

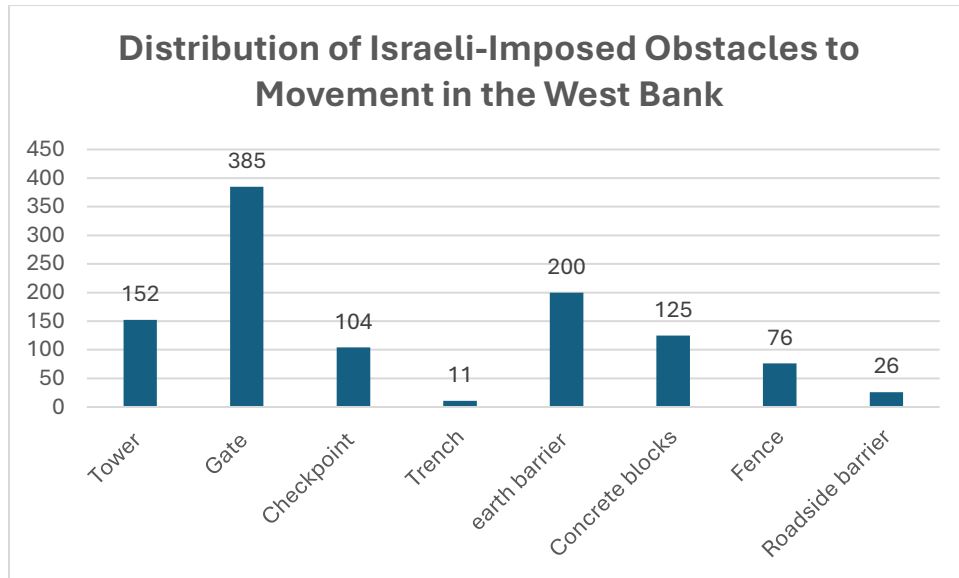
flying checkpoints, iron gates, dirt barriers, and concrete blocks reached 1,052 Israeli obstacles across the West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem³⁰

Nature of Israeli-imposed Obstacles by Governorate.³¹

#	Governorate	Towers	Gates	Fixed Checkpoints	Trenches	Dirt Barriers	Concrete Blocks	Fences	Roadside Barricades	Total
1	Jericho	6	9	4	1	9	7	0	0	36
2	Hebron	39	79	45	0	42	59	5	0	269
3	Bethlehem	24	51	6	0	26	2	0	1	110
4	Jenin	8	13	5	1	4	0	1	2	34
5	Ramallah	18	63	12	1	36	8	23	2	163
6	Salfit	4	21	2	1	6	13	15	0	62
7	Jerusalem suburbs	3	37	12	0	4	5	17	5	83
8	Tubas	0	5	1	2	3	1	0	8	20
9	Tulkarm	7	22	6	0	14	7	2	1	59
10	Qalqilya	9	22	3	0	3	5	8	3	53
11	Nablus	34	36	8	5	53	18	5	4	163
Total		152	385	104	11	200	125	76	26	1052

³⁰ Ahmad Abu Daya et al., *The Social and Economic Impacts of Israeli Occupation Measures in the West Bank: The West Bank Between Occupation Measures and Fragile Contexts*, Ramallah: Palestinian Institution for Empowerment and Local Development (REFORM), 2025, p. 23. [الاثار الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لاجراءات الاحتلال في الضفة الغربية - REFORM](#)

³¹ Palestinian Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Police: Central Operations, September 2025. Cited in: Ahmed Abu Diya et al., *The Social and Economic Impacts of Israeli Occupation Measures in the West Bank: The West Bank Between Occupation Measures and Fragile Contexts*, Ramallah: Palestinian Institution for Empowerment and Local Development (REFORM), 2025, p. 24.



One of the male respondents from Qarriot Village: “Approximately 90% of the agricultural land has been confiscated, and iron gates were installed at the entrances of our houses. access to the park was blocked, along with installing a physical barrier between Telfit and the town, which paralyses *the movement of residents and completely obstructs them.*” Another respondent added: “*There are ongoing arrests at checkpoints, with young men of both sexes detained for extended periods, subjected to beating and humiliation.*”

The presence of checkpoints alone does not reflect the full extent of restrictions imposed on Palestinian movement in the West Bank. These restrictions are often compounded by other obstacles, including dirt mounds, hills, barriers, and iron gates, typically installed at village entrances, which lead to the fragmentation and isolation of communities. In addition, arbitrary security measures such as curfews or full lockdowns of village gates in certain areas force residents to remain confined within their villages. Many respondents noted that most of these restrictions did not exist prior to October 7, 2023.

Key observations:

- Checkpoints, gates, towers, dirt barriers, and concrete blocks are widely distributed across all governorates.
- Hebron, Ramallah, and Nablus are the most heavily obstructed areas.
- These obstacles fragment communities, isolate villages, and severely limit access to agricultural land, public services, and mobility.

Mobility Restrictions and Impacts

- Palestinians report severe restrictions since October 7, 2023, including checkpoints, gates, and ad hoc settler barriers.
- Frequent arrests, detentions, and harassment at checkpoints are common.
- Barriers and closures often prevent access to farmland or essential services and force residents to constantly alter travel plans.
- Example: a male respondent described confiscation of ~90% of agricultural land, installation of iron gates at homes, and roadblocks completely paralysing local movement.

Risks Facing Women and Girls

- Women and girls are disproportionately affected by movement restrictions.
- Survey results:
 - 93% of women reported feeling unsafe.
 - 75% experienced violence from the Israeli army or settlers.
 - 23% were forced to leave their homes.

Gendered risks include:

- Verbal abuse, humiliating searches, harassment, and sexual harassment at checkpoints.
- Avoidance behaviour is common, especially when travelling with children, worsening social and psychological isolation³².

Number of complaints or incidents of women exposed to inspection risks, verbal abuse, and harassment

³² **Ahamad Musleh et al.**, *The Social and Economic Impacts of Israeli Occupation Measures in the West Bank: The West Bank Between Occupation Measures and Fragile Contexts*, Ramallah: Palestinian Institution for Empowerment and Local Development (REFORM), 2025, p. 34. [REFORM - الآثار الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لاجراءات الاحتلال في الضفة الغربية](#)

Year	Freedom Restriction	Economic Violence	Psychological Violence	Physical Violence	Sexual Harassment	Sexual Violence	Extortion	Total
2024	2	8	25	3	2	1	1	42
2025	3	15	50	3	0	0	2	73

A male respondent, from Yanoun Village, described verbal harassment and inappropriate gestures by the army and settlers, limiting access to education. While a female respondent from Al-Tawil town near Nablus reported harassment and physical intimidation of both youth and women.

United Nations agencies and Palestinian organisations have documented an increase in the risks of sexual violence against women and girls detained at checkpoints or during raids³³. Despite this, Palestinian women often avoid filing complaints about sexual violence and rarely report or submit complaints. An audit report on "Gender-Based Violence" revealed the presence of risks related to the stigma surrounding Palestinian women who have been harmed or detained by the Israeli army, with survivors struggling to regain their social standing due to assumptions that their reputation has been damaged³⁴.

³³/See: Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel's report "More than a human can bear": Israel's systematic use of sexual, reproductive and other forms of gender-based violence since 7 October 2023 [a-hrc-58-crp-6.pdf](#)

³⁴ GBV Sub Cluster (January 2025), Gender-Based Violence Safety Audit Report: West Bank, the occupied Palestinian territory, available at: [GBV Safety Audit WB](#)

Impacts of Israeli Violations on Palestinians in the West Bank

Israeli violations and the extensive, prolonged restrictions on the rights of Palestinians in the West Bank are not only illegal but also highly destructive, producing cumulative and overlapping effects that undermine Palestinians' essential access to healthcare and education, livelihoods, family unity, and community well-being.

The impacts could be classified as follows:

Destruction, possession, and Annexation of Land:

Evidence indicates that Palestinians continue to face systematic expropriation of their lands through state-supported settler invasions and military measures. Settlers occupy agricultural lands, graze livestock on Palestinian fields, uproot trees, burn crops, and close off roads leading to Palestinian lands, often under military protection. Farmers reported that water networks were cut off and wells confiscated.

"Settlers attack both private and public property, throw stones at houses, break cars, vandalise public spaces, damage water nets, dump solid waste in agricultural lands located in Area C, uproot olive trees, and prevent residents from accessing their lands in the contact areas," a respondent from Kefl Haris, Salfit, reported.

The Israeli military intensifies these violations by seizing land and declaring large areas as "security zones," causing crop losses and financial destruction, especially under the policy of land confiscation and annexation by settlers as part of grazing settlements. *"A large livestock wealth has been severely damaged, with cases of unemployment, stagnation, and lack of security and stability,"* noted a respondent from Tana town, Nablus.

Israel has established a system that produces only a false image of law enforcement, both at the criminal and civil levels. As a result, perpetrators are not punished, and victims do not receive compensation for the harm imposed on them. This is the case except in a few rare and exceptional instances, which are used solely to give the impression that the law enforcement system is functioning as it should.

Source: Lack of Accountability | B'Tselem

Residents and farmers receive no compensation³⁵ for these losses. Crops rot when fields are inaccessible, or transport is delayed at checkpoints, undermining their ability to restore livelihoods and eroding long-term economic stability and self-reliance. For women relying on small-scale farming, dairy production, and food processing, these losses are devastating. Unlike male farmers, who may have wider networks and alternative income

³⁵ see: "They Burn Our Property and Evade Compensation!" – Al-Hayat Al-Jadida [بحرقون ممتلكاتنا ويتهربون من التعويض!-الحياة الجديدة](#)

sources, cultural and social constraints limit women's ability to seek alternative work, increasing their vulnerability.

Livestock Theft and Restricted Grazing

Shepards reported being forced to sell livestock, having animals stolen by settlers, or being prevented from accessing grazing areas, often under constant monitoring. Some were detained and held by Israeli forces.

"They fired at us, detained us, and transported us at the crossing, preventing us from reaching our land. Drones were constantly filming overhead, including inside the house, filming my family and our livestock. Harassment continued up to our doorstep. Yesterday they destroyed a room of our neighbour and took its contents," reported a male respondent from al-Burj, town of Hebron.

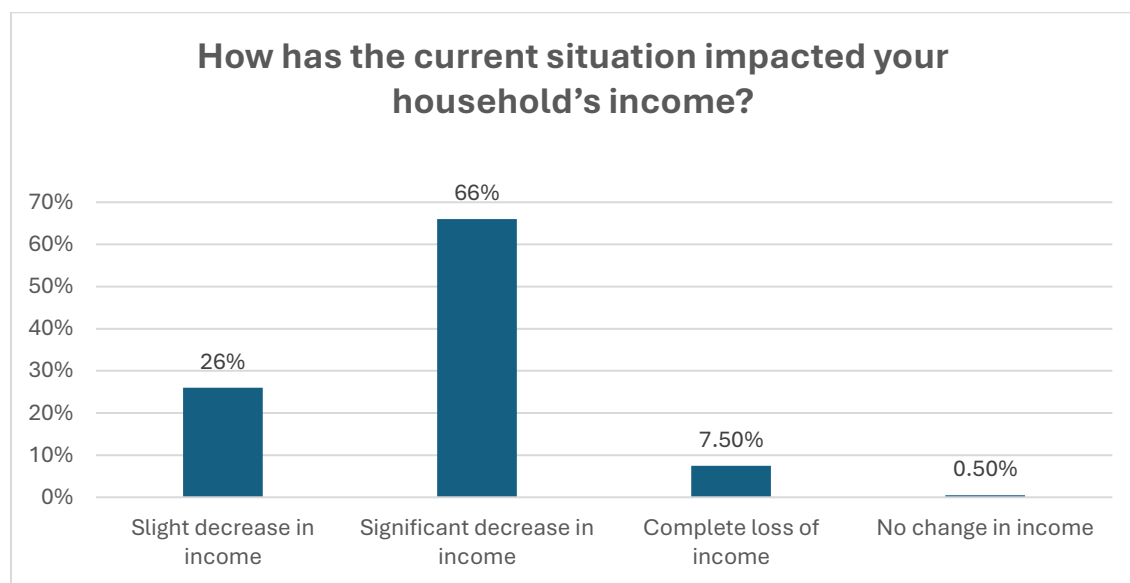
A female respondent from Um Sawanah in Hebron said: *"Our neighbours were afraid for their sheep and children. Settlers cut off the pipeline to their well, depriving them of water, and kept harassing them. We couldn't leave because of our crops. Yesterday, I was too scared to stand, couldn't milk the sheep, and while I was baking, armed settlers attacked me. I was terrified, I was almost heart-attached, I felt my heart stop. Even when I try to sleep, I often can't because of their dog's bark. Right now, we are alone; there is no one with us or around us, and it takes us two hours to reach the town if anything happens. Yesterday, a car came from below, and I went to bake bread, and they raised a weapon in my face, destroyed the rooms, the milk, the food, the clothes, and ruined everything. They took my husband, and my son and I were left alone in the area. My son is 12 years old; they detained him for six hours, and we were alone. Then they released him at the checkpoint, with his hands tied. I haven't left the area for a year. My son had children, and so did my daughters, and I was not able to see them. I could not see my family for a year. My wish is to live a normal life and to at least have a room and a bathroom".*

Income Loss and Decline

Residents of communities in contact areas suffer income loss due to settler harassment, repeated attacks on shepherds, and the theft or killing of livestock. A respondent from the village of Bardala said: *"I was beaten and prevented from grazing the sheep outside the hut; I was hospitalised for a week and am still in pain."* A female respondent from Beit Lid added: *"A number of my sheep were stolen, 34 of them in total."* Another respondent noted that these harassments *"severely affected me in every way, and I had to sell two-thirds of*

my sheep because of settler harassment, they prevented grazing, and there are many difficulties in obtaining fodder for the livestock.” (Respondent, male, Bardala, Tubas)

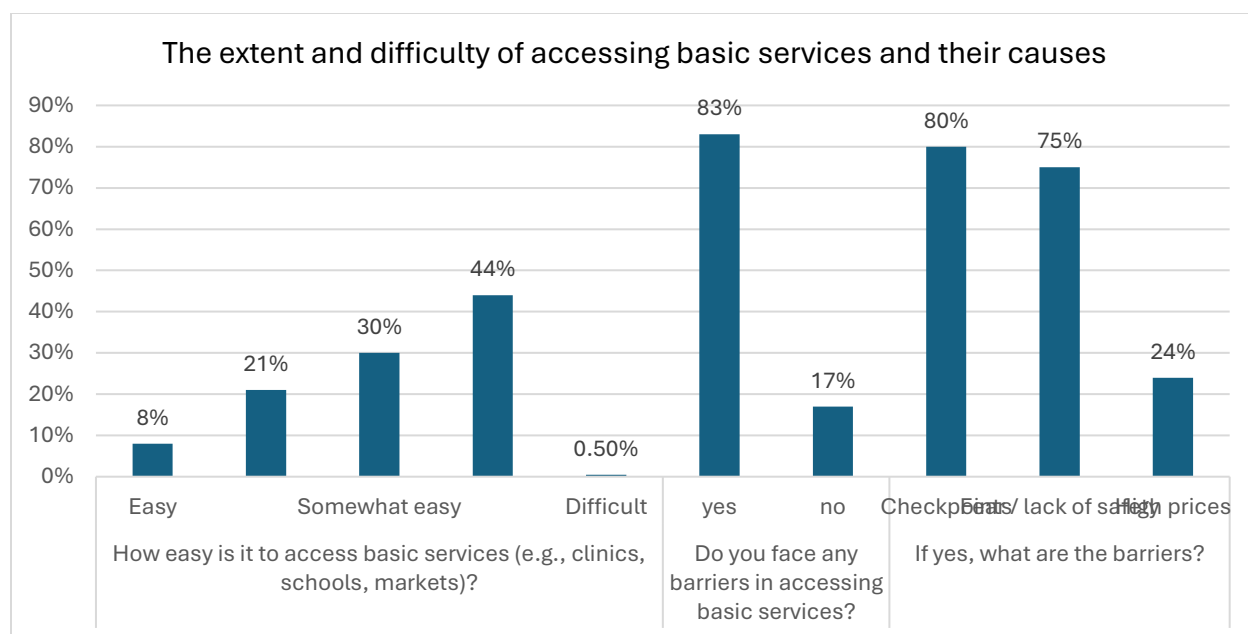
Survey results showed that 66% of respondents experienced a significant decrease in income, 26% lost their income entirely, 7.5% experienced minor decreases, and only 0.5% were unaffected. Rising unemployment rates are pushing youth to consider migration, while women bear heavier burdens in providing income and caring for the family. Injuries caused by attacks from the army or settlers often lead to permanent disability and further loss of income³⁶.



Many Palestinians, due to their urgent need for money and the level of poverty of their communities after the occupation destroyed their sources of income from pastures and farms, have no option but to work in the settlements. This work carries significant social, economic, and security risks. Employment in these illegal settlements presents a profound dilemma: on one hand, Palestinians must secure income to support their families; on the other hand, working there contributes to the settlement project, which violates international law and further entrenches the occupation and the violations of Palestinian rights³⁷.

³⁶ see "Ethnic Cleansing in the West Bank: Settler Militia Attacks Susya Without Any Arrests" | B'Tselem [تطهير عرقي في الضفة الغربية: ميليشيا المستوطنين تهاجم خربة سوسيا ولا يتم اعتقال أحد | بتسيلم](#)

³⁷ See: *The Story of Palestinian Workers in "Israeli" Settlements — Articles Online* [قصة العمال الفلسطينيين في المستوطنات «الإسرائيلية» - مقالات أونلاين](#)



80% of those who reported facing new barriers in accessing basic services (such as healthcare, clinics, schools, and markets) stated that these barriers are mostly due to checkpoints. 75% attributed the obstacles to fear of movement due to insecurity, while 24% cited high prices as the barrier.

Several international reports and interviews documented in this report indicate serious delays in movement, preventing individuals from reaching emergency medical services in a timely manner. “Difficulty accessing health services and treatment centres” female respondent, Kafr Qaddum/Qalqilya. Another respondent noted: “As I told you, the child was sick, and we had to take him to the doctor, but we were delayed for a long time. They were preventing people from accessing services through detention, shooting, or invading the area” (female respondent, Nabi Saleh/Ramallah).

Many interviewees also pointed to restricted movement, inability to travel, and teachers being unable to reach their schools (“Delays for teachers and staff in reaching their workplaces” – male respondent, ‘Ain al-Bayda/Tubas), or delays for students reaching their universities (“Many students are delayed in reaching their schools” – male respondent, ‘Ain al-Bayda/Tubas). A female respondent from Kafr Qaddum/Qalqilya added: “Because of the checkpoints, travel takes a long time, transportation costs increase, and there is also a loss of safety and security.”

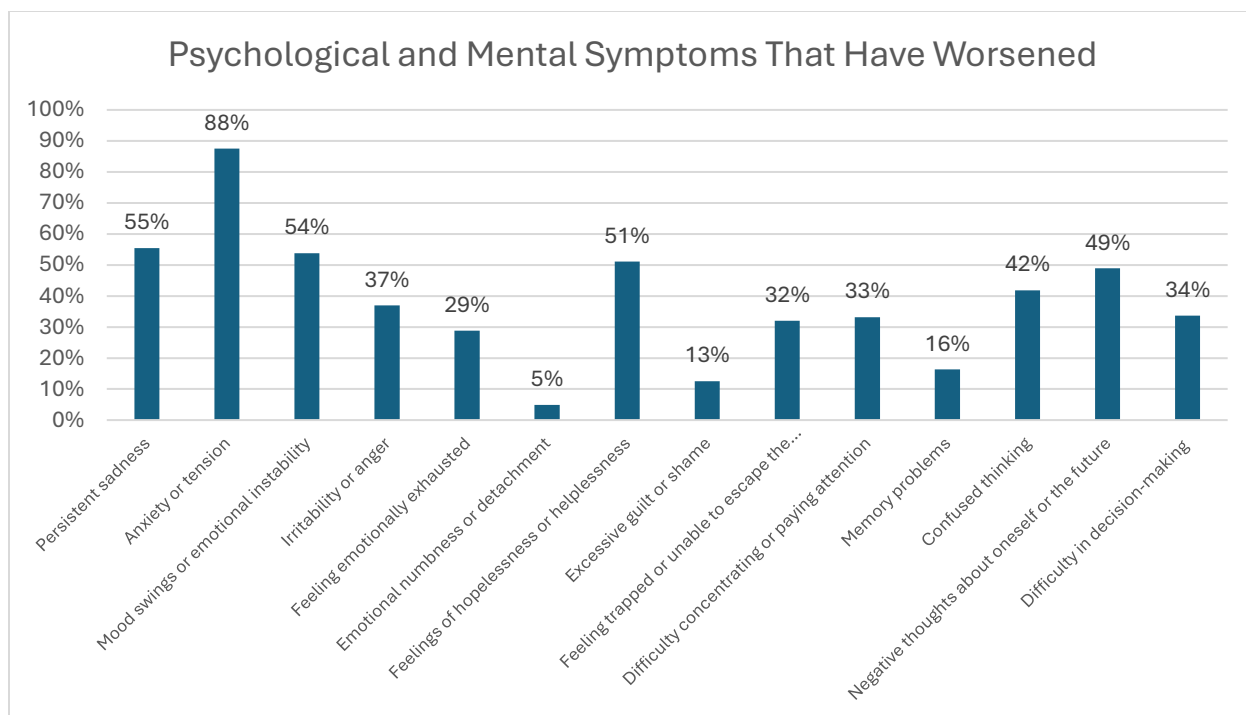
The results of the study *“Israeli Occupation Checkpoint Policy in Northern and Central West Bank and the Resulting Lost Working Hours”*, prepared by the Palestinian Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), show that transportation movement decreased by 51.7% following the start of the Gaza aggression in October 2023. Waiting times were recorded at 14 military checkpoints, with waiting periods ranging from 15 to 50 minutes. The findings also indicate that the average delay for trips outside Nablus Governorate reaches 42 minutes, representing a 77.9% increase over the original travel time.

The study estimates that approximately 191,146 work hours are lost daily, costing the Palestinian economy around 2.8 million shekels (\$764,600) per day, equivalent to 62.2 million shekels (\$16.8 million) per month. In addition, the extra distances drivers travel to avoid checkpoints result in additional fuel consumption estimated at 71,052 shekels (\$19,203) per day, or 22.2 million shekels (\$6 million) annually.

Source: Palestinian Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), *MAS Monitors the Significant Economic Losses of Israeli Occupation Checkpoints in Northern and Central West Bank – Press Release*

Deterioration of Mental Health

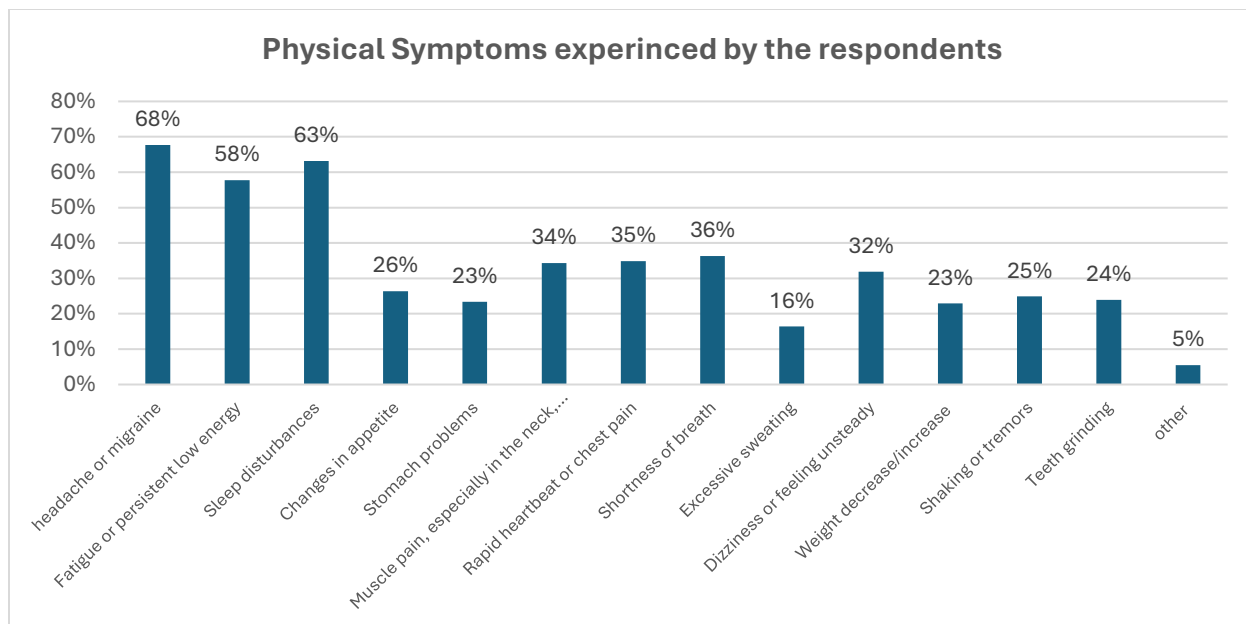
Restrictions on fundamental rights have caused severe psychological harm. A large majority of participants (92%) reported a decline in their mental health over the past month. Among those who said they experienced a deteriorating mental health or increased emotional stress due to this situation, 88% reported anxiety and tension, 55% reported persistent sadness, 54% experienced mood swings or emotional instability, and 51% reported feelings of hopelessness or helplessness. See the figure below for the other symptoms reported by citizens who stated that their mental health had deteriorated.



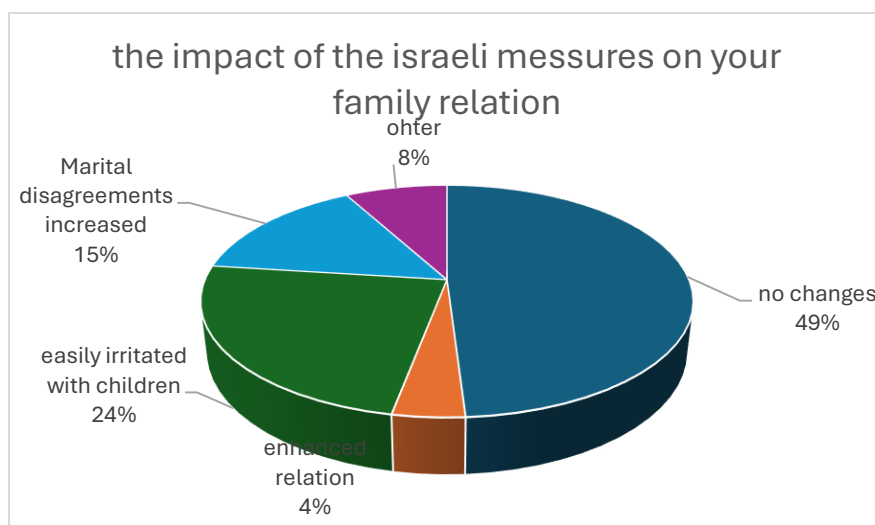
"One keeps thinking about the future that is gone, and about the dream they tried to achieve but couldn't. You feel like years of your life have been wasted, and everything has become threatened. Often, I think about emigrating and leaving the country, going somewhere I can establish myself with dignity and self-respect, living comfortably without fearing for my family and children. But at the same time, I am tied to my home, my land, my family, my relatives, and my country. It's not easy to leave all of that and go" (Respondent from Al-Ramadin, Hebron).

The restrictions imposed on Palestinian citizens also cause multiple physical harms. %68 of respondents reported experiencing tension headaches or migraines due to these restrictions and Israeli measures, 63% suffered from sleep disturbances (insomnia, excessive sleep, or disturbed sleep), and 58% reported persistent fatigue or low energy.

See the figure below.



These pressures negatively affect family life. Half of the survey respondents reported increased tensions at home, including marital disagreements and a greater tendency to become easily irritated with children. The survey results indicate that 39% of respondents experienced a deterioration in their relationships with family members over the past month due to Israeli violations, while 4% reported an improvement in their family relationships at home.

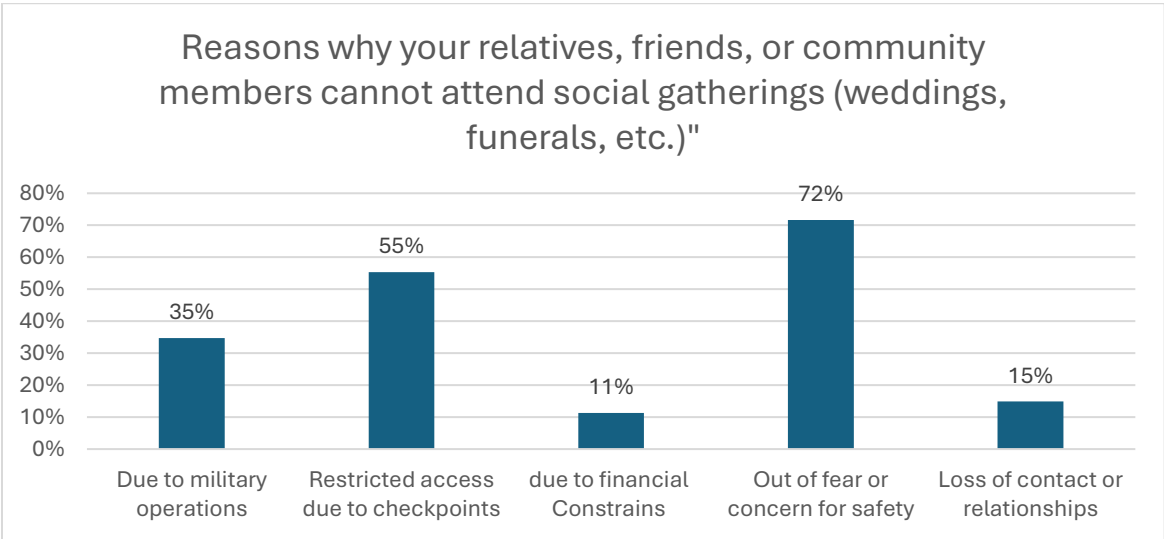


At the community level, the Israeli restrictions have led to an erosion of social ties, with 70% of participants reporting increased feelings of isolation and 52% indicating weakened

social connections. Nearly 70% stated that they are unable to attend community gatherings (such as weddings, funerals, etc.) due to movement restrictions, which has reduced the scale of weddings, funerals, and holiday gatherings.

Among those who reported being unable to attend community gatherings, 72% indicated that the reason was fear or concerns for their personal safety, 55% cited the inability to reach locations due to checkpoints, 35% pointed to Israeli military operations in Palestinian areas, 15% referred to the loss of contact or relationships with friends and relatives, and 11% attributed it to limited financial resources.

See the figure below.



The decline in social activities and the avoidance of gatherings due to security fears deepen isolation and fragment communities, thereby undermining social cohesion and long-term resilience.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Palestinians residing in the West Bank have experienced an unprecedented deterioration in their safety, security, and overall well-being since October 2023, and the subsequent military operations in the occupied Palestinian territory, with the protection environment continuing to decline. The frequency and severity of violence by the Israeli army and illegal settlers, as well as land confiscation and demolitions, have increased significantly and reached alarming levels. This has undermined Palestinians' ability to protect themselves, making them more vulnerable to harm while depriving them of effective avenues for justice and legal remedy, as guaranteed under international humanitarian law and human rights.

In July 2024, the International Court of Justice ruled that the Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territory is unlawful and that its associated measures are illegal under international law, including the presence of Israeli settlements. In September 2024³⁸ The United Nations General Assembly affirmed the conclusions of the advisory opinion in a resolution calling on Israel to end its unlawful occupation.

In light of the findings of this report and other evidence of violations of international humanitarian law, it is essential that the horrific humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip does not overshadow these developments. Both contexts must be addressed with equal urgency, as they are interconnected parts of the same crisis.

Recommendations

Palestinian government bodies, local authorities, and civil society organisations engaged in service provision should:

- **Establish community-based early warning committees** to protect local communities from settler attacks.

include settler attacks within the indicators of systematic Israeli violations, considering them a clear breach of Israel's obligations as an occupying power under international humanitarian law, particularly the Hague Regulations and the Fourth Geneva Convention. These attacks are not isolated incidents but represent an organised form of informal field closure that restricts Palestinian movement, undermines their security and livelihoods, and for which Israel bears direct legal responsibility as the entity obliged to protect civilians in the occupied territories.

Strengthen the documentation of these attacks and legally link them to the occupying power's duty of protection, using this documentation as a supporting tool in diplomatic and legal processes, including any future political agreements or understandings. This includes advocating for international monitoring and accountability mechanisms that protect Palestinian civilians and safeguard freedom of movement and access to essential services.

³⁸ See: International Court of Justice (July 2024), Legal Consequences Arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem, available at: [Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024](#)

- **Provide support initiatives for communities affected by attacks** by the Israeli army and settlers, including cash assistance to affected families and accessible financial mechanisms for concessional lending, with partial guarantees from government funds.
- **Create mobile safe spaces** for women, children, and persons with disabilities, offering psychosocial support sessions, psychological first aid, legal awareness, and guidance on positive parenting.
- **Develop service-access mapping** updated quarterly (education, health, protection) and share it with ministries and donors to guide interventions.
- **Prepare periodic, well-documented legal case files** based on the study's data (checkpoints, permit denials, obstruction of justice, gender-based violence) for submission to the United Nations Human Rights Council, special procedures mechanisms, and the International Court of Justice.
- **Schedule regular briefings for donor states**, highlighting the impact of the mobility restrictions on women, persons with disabilities, and older persons, alongside recommended measures (humanitarian corridors, temporary protection for service providers).
- **Advocate for sanctions or restrictive measures** against actors who obstruct access to essential services or target civilian facilities, in coordination with international partners.

Recommendations for Donors and Humanitarian Actors:

- Funding for programs in the West Bank must be increased, prioritising initiatives that aim to empower local communities, including civil society organisations and local authorities, mitigate risks, strengthen social cohesion, and build resilience in the face of increasing restrictions and forced displacement. This includes supporting community-based initiatives, such as psychosocial support programs for marginalised groups.
- **Behaviour change and violence prevention programs should aim to reduce stigma and support the reintegration of marginalised groups**, including survivors of gender-based violence stemming from violations by the Israeli military and settlers, with the goal of fostering recovery and reinforcing social cohesion.
- **Innovative approaches** should be developed to build the capacities of community groups to lead initiatives in marginalised and hard-to-reach areas.

- Efforts should continue to link protection interventions with legal aid programs, particularly regarding rights violations, including human, property, and legal rights of Palestinians.
- Violations should be monitored and documented to provide practical evidence that informs legal assistance and advocacy efforts at both national and international levels, including issues related to property rights, supporting efforts to achieve justice and effective protection for Palestinian communities.
- Support should continue for comprehensive documentation of all violations in the West Bank under international law and human rights law, enabling the development of evidence-based programs and advocacy efforts to protect affected communities.
- Priority should be given to monitoring the impact of unlawful violence by Israeli military forces and settlers on different population groups, including the most vulnerable, such as women, children, farmers, Bedouin/pastoralist communities, and displaced families.
- A comprehensive coverage of violations should be ensured across all classified areas (Areas A, B, and C).

Recommendations for International Policymakers / Authorities:

- Community-led protection interventions, driven by local communities and national and international organisations aiming to deter and mitigate settler violence, should receive stronger and more consistent international support to achieve tangible impact.
- Pressure should be applied on the Israeli government to prevent forced displacement, land confiscation, demolition of Palestinian infrastructure, and unlawful violence committed by settlers and Israeli forces against Palestinian communities.
- Diplomatic pressure and political engagement should be enhanced to demand the immediate removal of checkpoints, arbitrary gates, and movement restrictions that undermine Palestinians' access to healthcare, education, and livelihoods.
- In line with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling of July 2024, proportionate measures must be taken to end the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, including halting settlement expansion and related measures that deprive Palestinians of their fundamental rights.

- Any commercial relation that would entrench the illegal occupation should be avoided, in accordance with the ICJ ruling (paragraph 278).
- UN Member States should use diplomatic and political pressure to take immediate action and hold the Israeli government accountable for daily violations of international humanitarian law and Palestinian human rights.
- Continuous pressure should be applied on the responsible parties to end impunity for perpetrators, upholding international humanitarian law and human rights.