

2020

ISRAELI CRIMES

*Entrenched impunity in the
absence of accountability*

Reuters



2020 IN CONTEXT

The year 2020 was a challenging year in Palestine and the whole world. In addition to the raging **COVID-19** pandemic, Israel's relentless crimes continued to escalate, compounding the suffering of the Palestinian people across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem.

Home demolitions, forced transfer and expulsions, killings, detention, theft of land and resources, as well as expansion of the illegal settlement regime and the continued illegal siege of Gaza were the main tools in Israel's entrenched system of oppression, dispossession, and land grab.

In partnership with the Trump administration, Israel worked on amassing rewards for its impunity from some regimes while enjoying the total absence of any international accountability. This political context allowed Israel to make 2020 a record-setting year for Israeli aggression and impunity.

Without a change in this dangerous abdication of international responsibility and accountability, Israel will be encouraged and emboldened to stay the course in its drive to entrench colonization, expand its de facto annexation, and normalize its perpetual oppression of the Palestinian people.

This short report provides a brief summary of Israel's most glaring violations during 2020.



DISPOSSESSION

The year 2020 witnessed the highest number of home demolitions in 4 years. While people were being asked to stay at home to gain control over the pandemic, Israeli occupation authorities demolished a record number of Palestinian homes and structures, including a high number of donor-funded structures.

In one day, Israel demolished **83 homes** and structures in Khirbet Humsa, a small community in the Jordan Valley. The massive demolition displaced **73** Palestinians, including **41 children**.

Israeli occupation authorities often cite the lack of the impossible-to-obtain permits as an excuse to carry out mass demolitions and forced displacement of Palestinians. This false pretext is belied by Israel's accelerated drive to expand existing and build new illegal Israeli settlements that replace these devastated homes.

In total this year, **848** Palestinian homes and structures were demolished/confiscated. As a result of these incidents, **6,386** Palestinians were displaced or had their livelihoods affected. A total of **156** donor-funded structures were also either demolished or confiscated.

International law experts and human rights organizations have pointed out that Israel's home demolition policy is a grave violation of international law. They are also part and parcel of Israel's system of oppression and dispossession against the Palestinian people.

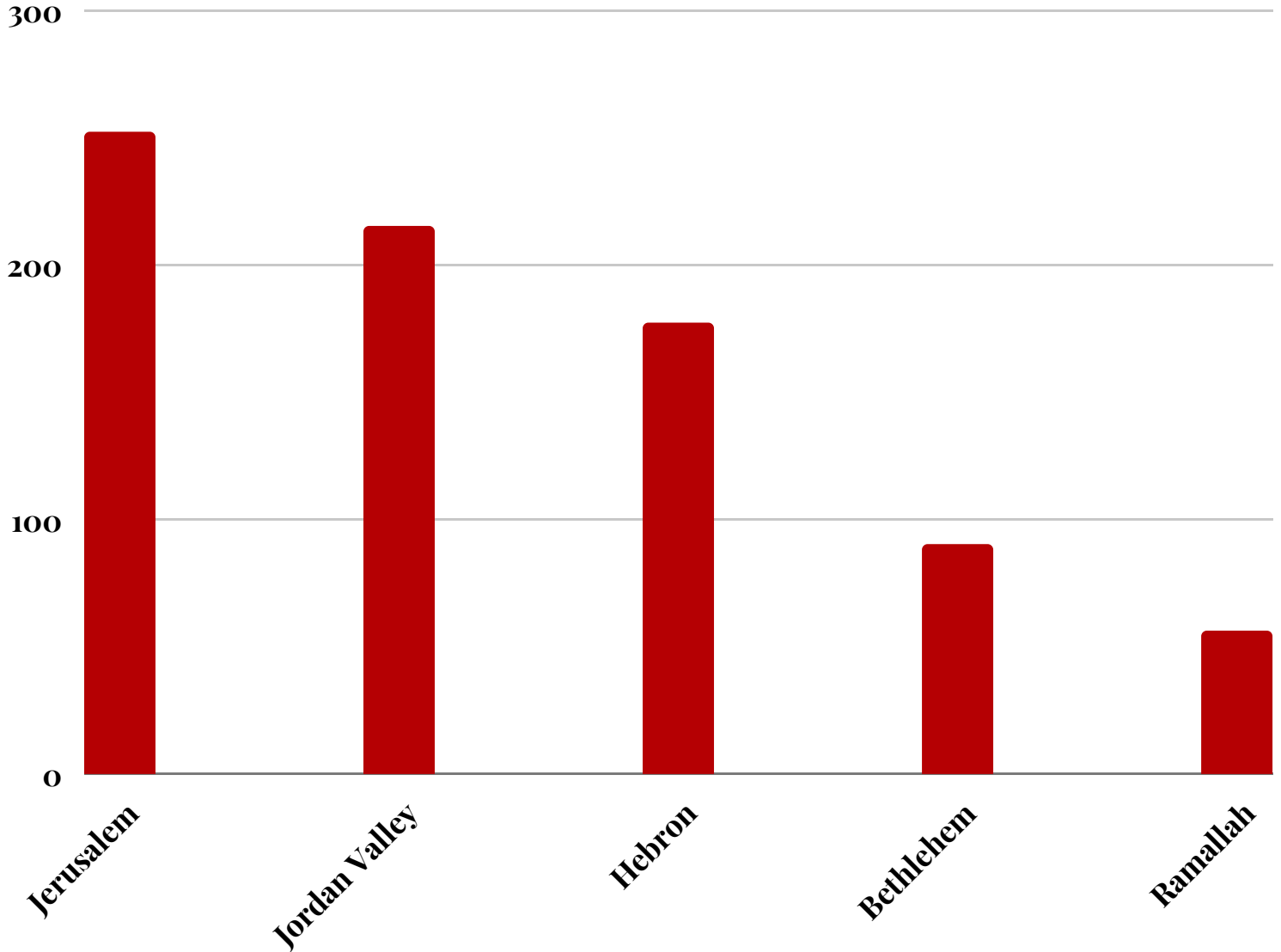
>50%

of the displaced
Palestinians were
children

46

Palestinian Bedouin
communities are at
risk of displacement

MOST TARGETED PALESTINIAN AREAS



Source: UN-OCHA





MASS INCARCERATION

This year, **more than 4,600** Palestinians were detained by Israel, including **543 children**.

In the same period, Israel also issued **1,114 administrative detention orders** (detention with no charge or trial for renewable 6 month periods). Multiple International organizations and human rights groups have decried this cruel Israeli practice and called for its immediate cessation.

79 Palestinian **children** were subject to torture and/or other forms of ill-treatment in Israeli prisons and **15 children** were placed into solitary confinement.

Israeli forces conducted **3,425** military search and arrest raids into the occupied West Bank. Such raids are carried out at night, followed by long hours of interrogation and various methods of torture and ill-treatment.

Israel has imprisoned over **1 million** Palestinians, including thousands of children since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967, In the same period, Israel has issued nearly **60,000** orders to detain Palestinians without charge or trial (administrative detention).



LAND GRAB

2020 was a record-breaking year in relation to Israeli land grab and de facto annexation. The Israeli government approved the construction of **31,000** illegal settlement units, stealing an area of **31,571** Dunums. Nearly half of these expansions were in Jerusalem.

Several strategic settlement projects were advanced. They include so-called **E1** and **E2** blocs, the **Giv'at Hamatos** settlement, "**Silicon Wadi**", **Qalandia airport settlement** and the **cable car project** in occupied Jerusalem. In addition to further isolating occupied Jerusalem from its natural Palestinian surroundings, these projects accelerate Israel's de facto annexation of Palestinian land.

As revealed by a BBC investigation, the Israeli government is also working hand in glove with the help of extreme settler groups, continuously aim to accelerate the social engineering of occupied Jerusalem.

The Israeli government has also set up a commission specifically charged with combatting Palestinian construction in so-called 'Area C' of the occupied West Bank (**60%** of the WB).

These strategic and illegal steps were facilitated and bolstered by the political and ideological alliance with the Trump administration, which took additional steps to legitimize and normalize Israeli settlements and Israeli annexation of Area C during the year. Israel's impunity is also entrenched by the total absence of accountability from the international community.






SETTLER TERRORISM

At least **758** settler attacks were recorded. These attacks were concentrated in the areas of Hebron, Jerusalem, Nablus and Ramallah. They resulted in injuring **134** Palestinians, cutting down or burning **9,360** trees and vandalizing **184** vehicles.

Israeli settlers, who reside in illegal settlements across the occupied West Bank, attack and harass Palestinians on a daily basis. This is often done under the watch and protection of Israeli occupation forces. The peak time of such terrorist attacks occur during olive harvest season, when settlers attack Palestinian farmers, steal their harvest, and burn their olive groves.

Not only are these terrorist settler attacks protected by Israeli occupation forces, they are also provided with immunity by the judicial arm of the regime. **91%** of investigations into settler terrorist attacks and hate crimes against Palestinians are closed without indictments.

   @PalestinePDP

Source: UN-OCHA, Yesh Din

Issam Rimawi/Anadolou Agency





STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE

Israel's shoot first, justify later policy reflects the culture of impunity that characterizes its colonial regime.

This year, Israel killed **31** Palestinians; **9** of them were children. An additional **2,669** Palestinians were injured by Israeli occupation forces. Most killings and injuries occur during regular raids by Israeli forces of Palestinian cities, villages and refugee camps.

Under Israel's regime of oppression, Palestinian lives do not matter and accountability for violating Palestinians' right to life is non-existent.

A mere **0.7%** of complaints concerning Israeli soldier offenses against Palestinians lead to indictments.

Source: UN-OCHA, Yesh Din

