









Overview

Netanyahu's sixth government adopted the idea of full sovereignty over "the land of Israel" and "settling the conflict" with the Palestinian people by accelerating its colonial-settlement expansion, imposing a fait accompli, toward forcibly transferring Palestinians to neighboring Arab countries. This was practically embodied by Israel committing the crime of genocide in Gaza and continuing its aggression against the West Bank, incl. occupied Jerusalem, where the occupying Power is committing numerous violations and crimes, incl. killings, arrests, home demolitions, extrajudicial executions, military raids, and destruction of infrastructure. Under the protection of the occupation forces (IOF), terrorist attacks by Israeli settlers escalated in the West Bank by establishing numerous colonial-settlement installations (outposts), desecrating Islamic and Christian holy places, and burning Palestinian homes and properties, notably attacking many Palestinian villages in the towns of Huwara, Turmus'ayya, Sinjil, Asira al-Qibliya, Jalud, and the northern Jordan Valley.



In the first nine months of 2023, Jenin and its refugee camp were the epicenter of events. As a result of the IOF's massacre on 26 January, ten Palestinians were killed, incl. an elderly woman, and over twenty others were injured, some critically. The IOF continued to attack Jenin by storming rooftops in the refugee camp, firing live ammunition and tear gas, cutting off electricity, blocking ambulances and journalists' access, directly targeting ambulances, and firing tear gas canisters at Jenin Government Hospital, causing dozens of patients to suffocate, incl. children. In the same month, 75 firing attacks were recorded in Gaza, incl. aerial bombardment cases. In April, settlers continued to storm into the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, with the IOF repeatedly storming the Mosque and assaulting worshippers during the holy month of Ramadan. Simultaneously, with the participation of several ministers, settlers marched to Mount Sabih in Nablus governorate to establish "Evyatar," a new colonial settlement installation (outpost). Christian holidays also witnessed attacks and restrictions, such as attempts to prevent Palestinians from entering the Holy Sepulcher Church during Easter under the pretext of "crowd control and order enforcement." The military campaigns across the occupied Palestinian territory persisted, and Nablus governorate recorded the highest number of martyrs in April. In May, 54 Palestinians were killed, incl. 34 in Gaza during Israel's military assault against the Strip. Once again, Jenin governorate recorded the highest number of martyrs nationwide during the IOF raids into Jenin and its refugee camp in June and July. In September, Gaza again recorded the highest number of martyrs in occupied Palestine, with seven civilians killed, incl. six in an explosion near the so called "border fence" during a march commemorating the eighteenth anniversary of Israel's unilateral withdrawal from the Strip, and another killed by Israeli soldiers east of Khan Yunis. On 7 October, the occupying Power launched its genocidal aggression against the besieged Gaza Strip. It has since intensified its aggression against the West Bank.

The year 2023 was the bloodiest in the history of the Palestinian people since the 1948 Nakba. With its end, we begin the 57th year of Palestinian resilience under Israel's colonial settlement occupation and apartheid, witnessing humanitarian horrors on a scale never seen before. While the world remains incapable of stopping the genocide in the Gaza Strip and all forms of aggression against the Palestinian people in the West Bank, incl. occupied Jerusalem, the undeniable truth remains that the Palestinian people will continue to resist toward achieving our right to self-determination and freedom.

Key Facts & Figures





	At least 22,349 Palestinians were killed [21,822 martyrs in Gaza (5,153 women and 7,729 children) and 527 martyrs in the West Bank]. In Gaza, at least 7,000 Palestinians remain missing under the rubble. (Ministry of Health)
	+ 68,300 Palestinians were injured, incl. +56,165 in Gaza (Ministry of Health)
	Since the aggression began, at least 1,825 massacres have been committed in Gaza. (Media Sources)
	Throughout 2023, there were 3,763 shooting incidents across all West Bank governorates and in the Gaza Strip, in addition to 10,077 military raids, incl. those into the so-called Gaza's "buffer zone," where the IOF conducted operations to raze agricultural lands [recorded incidents in Gaza are documented until 6 October], along with 4,931 cases of sudden military checkpoints in the West Bank. (NAD)
	At least 1,987 Israeli settlers' terror attacks (NAD)
	At least 11,000 Palestinians were arrested, incl. 300 women and 1,085 children ¹ . Throughout 2023, ten Palestinian detainees died while in prison. ² (Palestinian Prisoners Society & The Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs Commission).

Israel's Genocidal Aggression Against the Gaza Strip

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A total of 144 humanitarian staff members were killed, incl. 142 UNRWA employees, a WHO employee, and a UNDP employee. During the same time period, at least 312 healthcare workers and 40 civil defense workers were killed while on duty (Ministry of Health). ▪ The attacks against holy sites (MOH) damaged 115 Mosques and 3 Churches (Ministry of Health). ▪ Israel refuses to give information on how many bodies of Gaza martyrs are withheld; however, on 22 November, Israel released 111 bodies of martyrs from Gaza, and on 26 December, they released the bodies of 80 others (National Campaign for the Recovery of Martyrs' Bodies).
	Approximately 60% of Gaza's housing units destroyed or damaged civilian infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed. (290,000 residential units were affected, incl. 65,000 that were completely destroyed). (Ministry of Health)
	Nearly 85% of Gaza's population was forcibly displaced (approx. 1.93 million Palestinians). (Ministry of Health)

¹The number of Palestinian prisoners reached 8,800 at the end of 2023, incl. over 80 female prisoners in Damon Prison alone. There are no accurate figures regarding children detained. There were 3,291 administrative detainees, incl. 20 children, seven women, and 16 parliamentarians. The highest rate of arrests was in occupied Jerusalem with 3,261 cases. Post 7 October, the highest rate of arrests were in Hebron with 1,943 cases, followed by Jenin with 1,462 cases.

² The first was the injured Wadi Abu Rammouz from Jerusalem, who died in Israeli Soroka hospital in January; Ahmad Abu Ali from Yatta died in the same hospital on 10 February; Mahmoud Hamdan from Aqbat Jabr refugee camp in Jericho who was injured and arrested and died of his wounds on 1 March and Khader Adnan from Jenin, who died after an 86-day hunger strike in protest of his arbitrary detention. Six prisoners inside Israeli prisons died after 7 October, incl. Omar Daragmeh from Tubas, Arafat Hamdan from Ramallah, Majed Zaqoul from Gaza, a fourth unidentified martyr, Abdul Rahman Mari' from Salfit, and Thaer Abu Asab from Qalqilya. There is no information available on the number of Palestinian prisoners from Gaza and how many were killed.

	<p>Approximately 1.4 million internally displaced individuals are taking refuge in 155 UNRWA facilities spread across all five governorates of the Gaza Strip. There are 160,000 of them in the northern region and Gaza City, with another 400,000 near these facilities, where UNRWA assists them. By the end of 2023, Israeli airstrikes had caused damage to 128 UNRWA facilities, leading to the tragic loss of 142 UNRWA personnel (UNRWA).</p>
	<p>Attacks on the Education Sector: from 7 October until the end of 2023: 278 government schools in Gaza were exposed to bombardment of which 83 schools were severely damaged and 7 schools were fully destroyed. An additional 65 UNRWA schools were severely damaged. At least 4,119 students and more than 221 members of the education staff were killed. Additionally, 7,536 students and 703 education staff were injured³ (Ministry of Education).</p>
	<p>Attacks on the Health Sector: from 7 October until the end of the year, 60% (21/36) of the hospitals were not functioning, and 36% (13/36) were partially functioning, while 4% had limited capacity. At the same time, almost 74% (53/72) of primary healthcare facilities were not functioning. In the attacks on primary healthcare facilities, 600 people were killed, 764 people were injured, 65 health workers were arrested, and 94 health facilities were affected, incl. the damage of 26 hospitals. The IOF targeted and affected 76 ambulances, of which 38 were damaged (Ministry of Health).</p>
	<p>Attacks on Journalists: Since the aggression began, 102 journalists and media workers have been killed by Israeli bombardment of their homes, offices, or while working in the field in Gaza. In addition, IOF bombarded more than 700 journalist's homes and destroyed 73 media institutions' headquarters (Journalists' Syndicate).</p>

The following are examples of the occupying Power's deliberate targeting of hospitals and shelters and the crimes it committed against Palestinian civilians in Gaza after 7 October 2023:

- **Targeting Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza:** [On 8 December, IOF imposed a tight siege on the hospital](#), which had at the time 65 patients, incl. 12 children in the intensive care unit and six newborns in incubators. On 11 December, IOF fired a missile toward the hospital's maternity ward, killing two women and wounding dozens, and snipers opened fire on anyone moving inside or outside of it, rendering it inoperable. On 13 December, IOF stormed Kamal Adwan Hospital after destroying its gates and walls. They went up to its rooftops and turned them into military barracks. All those inside the hospital, incl. medical staff and IDPs, were asked to go outside to the courtyard. They subjected them to interrogation, and most of them were beaten, abused, and detained. On 14 December, IOF raided the hospital again and forced the remaining 2,500 IDPs to leave. Males over 14 were forced to remove their clothes except for their underwear, and they were detained for six hours in another area. On the morning of 16 December, IOF withdrew from the hospital after destroying part of the administration building, the pharmacy, and the medicine store and conducted extensive excavations inside the hospital courtyard, incl. by destroying a mass grave containing the bodies of 26 Palestinians.
- **On 18 November in northern Gaza, IOF targeted Al Fakhoura School run by UNRWA in Jabalia refugee Camp and a school in Tal al-Za'tar**, sheltering thousands of displaced people, which led to the killing of at least 200 Palestinians. Al-Fakhoura school was previously bombed on 3 November, which led to the killing of 12 Palestinians and injuring at least 20 others.

³ According to a report by the [Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research](#), since 7 October, 443 students and 19 higher education staff members were killed (98% of them in the Gaza Strip). Also, 13 buildings suffered partial or total destruction.

- On 18 October, in the center of Gaza City, [IOF targeted an UNRWA school in Al-Maghazi camp](#), which was housing no less than 4,000 IDPs, leading to the killing of eight Palestinians, incl. three UNRWA staff members and the wounding of at least 40 others.

Israel's Aggression Against the West Bank

- The IOF killed 527 Palestinians, incl. 120 children (23%), of whom 319 were killed between 7 October and the end of December 2023, accounting for 60% of the total number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank in 2023 ([Ministry of Health](#)).
- At least 12,150 Palestinians were injured in 2023, incl. 5,974 post-7 October who were transferred to hospitals for treatment ([Ministry of Health](#)) and 2,152 treated in the field ([Palestinian Red Crescent Society](#)).
- Since the aggression began, 38 public schools were attacked, 37 students were killed, 282 students and five teachers were injured, and 85 students and more than 71 teachers were arrested. ([Ministry of Education](#))
- The IOF conducted 10,045 military raids, which included 944 attacks and confiscations of civilian property during these operations ([NAD](#)).
- The Israeli occupation authority withheld the bodies of 78 martyrs, incl. 12 children, while releasing the bodies of 28 martyrs, incl. six martyrs killed in previous years. Israel has withheld a total of 41 martyrs' bodies between 7 October and the end of the year ([National Campaign for the Recovery of Martyrs' Bodies](#))



In 2023: The occupation authorities promoted nearly 13,600 settlement units in the West Bank, and 19,000 settlement units in occupied Jerusalem, in addition to approving several other colonial settlement projects. ([Peace Now & Ir Amim](#))



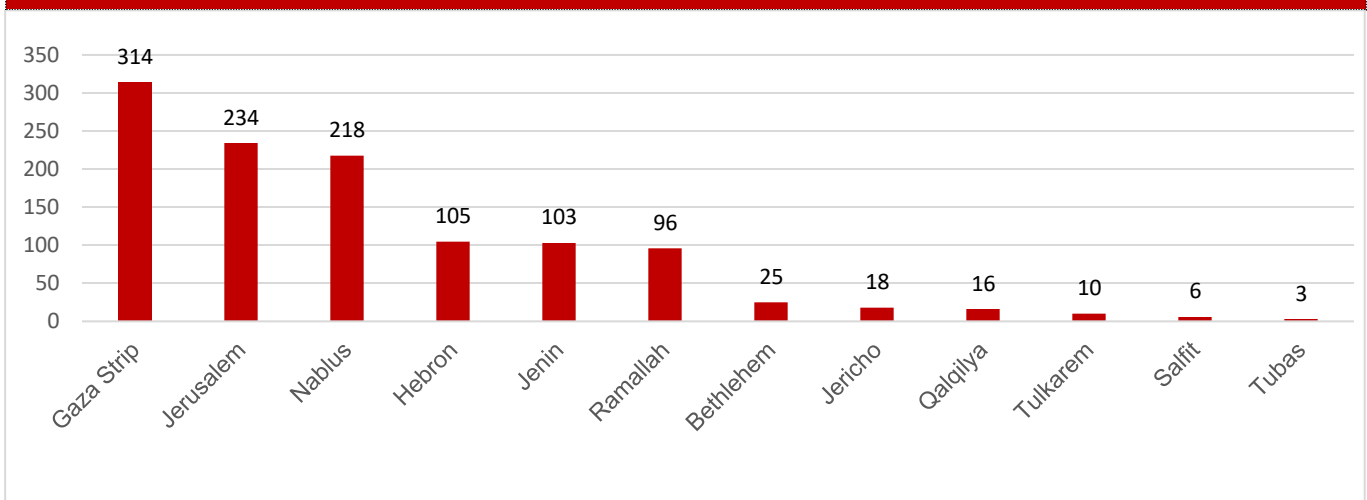
In 2023: The IOF demolished 863 structures, incl. 206 homes and 94 donor-funded structures, resulting in the displacement of 214 families (1,122 individuals, incl. 560 children), and otherwise affecting 4,826 families (38,021 individuals, incl. 18,777 children) ([UNOCHA](#)).⁴

Attacks Against Palestinian Journalists

Throughout 2023, IOF committed 1,172 violations against journalists in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, where 102 journalists were killed. More than half of these violations happened between October and December. The violations included 113 cases of physical assaults, 49 cases of settlers' attacks, two journalists were deliberately run over, 314 cases of detention and preventing journalists from covering news, 38 cases of confiscating/ destroying equipment, 91 cases of raiding journalists' homes, and 80 cases of raiding/ damaging and closing media offices. During this period, 24 cases of violations were committed against Palestinian citizens of Israel, incl. several cases of live ammunition injuries. Since 7 October, the IOF has arrested 58 journalists in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Additionally, 49 cases of settlers' attacks against journalists in the West Bank were documented ([Journalists' Syndicate](#)).

⁴ A report issued by the Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission (CWRC) revealed that the occupation authorities issued 1,333 demolition, construction halt, and evacuation notices across the occupied West Bank. Hebron governorate bore the brunt with 356 notices, followed by Bethlehem governorate with 246. The remaining notifications were spread across Salfit, Jerusalem, Jericho, and Nablus governorates.

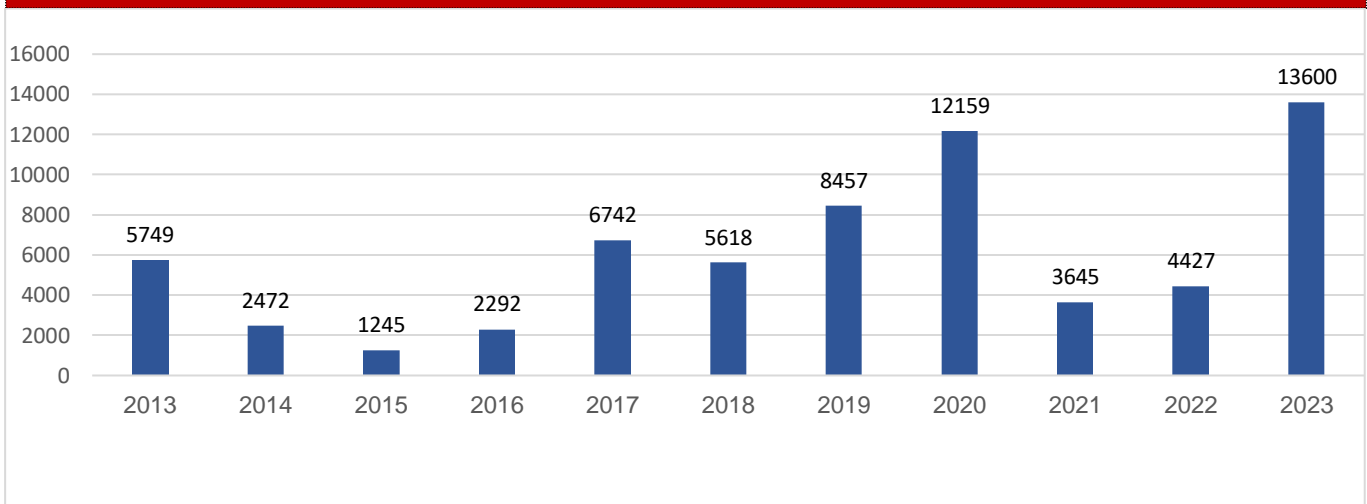
Attacks Against Palestinian Journalists in 2023 By Governorate



Israel's Colonial Settlement Expansion in 2023

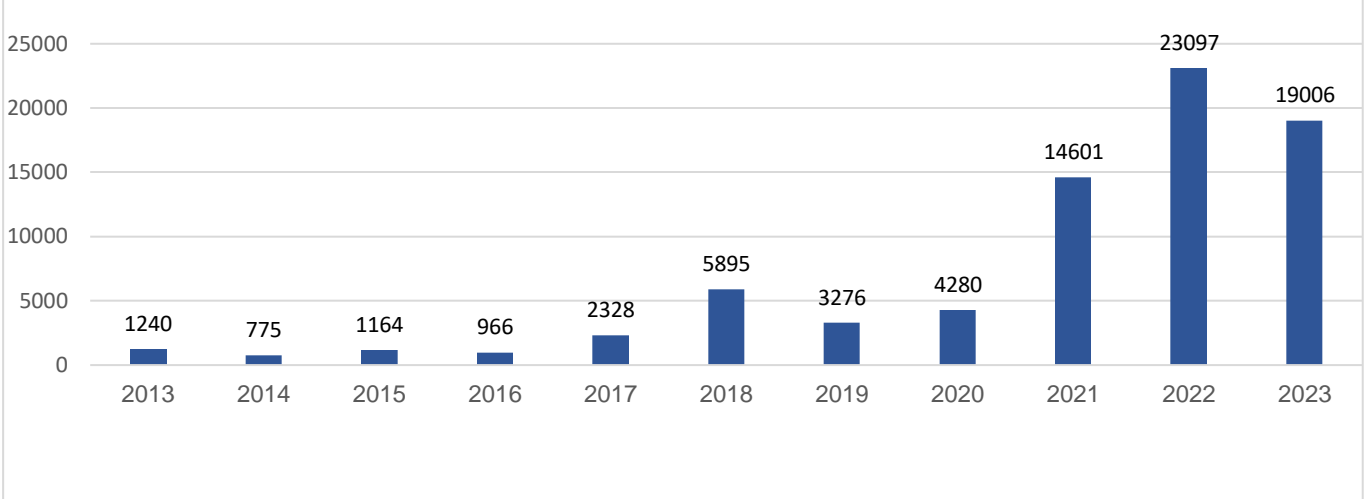
The number of settlers in the West Bank reached 740,000, with 240,000 in occupied Jerusalem, marking a growth rate of 2.2%. Over the past decade, the settler population increased by 200,000, with most of the growth occurring in larger settlements like "Modi'in Illit," "Beitar Illit," "Ma'ale Adumim," and "Ariel," which collectively house around 215,000 settlers. In addition to escalating Israeli settlement construction on the ground, Israeli "Planning and Zoning" committees continue to illegally approve existing construction works in settlements. They have prepared thousands of plans to build more housing units throughout the West Bank, particularly in occupied Jerusalem and its surrounding areas. Israeli occupation authorities, incl. the Ministry of Housing, have promoted 13,600 settlement housing units in the West Bank. **This is the largest number of housing units developed in West Bank settlements since the signing of the Oslo Interim Accords.** At the same time, Israel's "Jerusalem Municipality" promoted 19,000 settlement housing units, with 12,972 units allocated for new settlements or settlement expansions in advanced stages. The remaining units are designated for urban renewal in built-up areas within settlements. This includes 31 plans for Israeli settlements, 5 of which are for establishing new settlements, incl., for example, "Giv'at Shaked," "New Talpiot," "Ramot Alon A and B," "Lower Aqueduct Plan", and "Kidmat Zion."

Annual Number of Illegal Israeli Settlement Housing Units Promoted in the West Bank 2013 – 2023



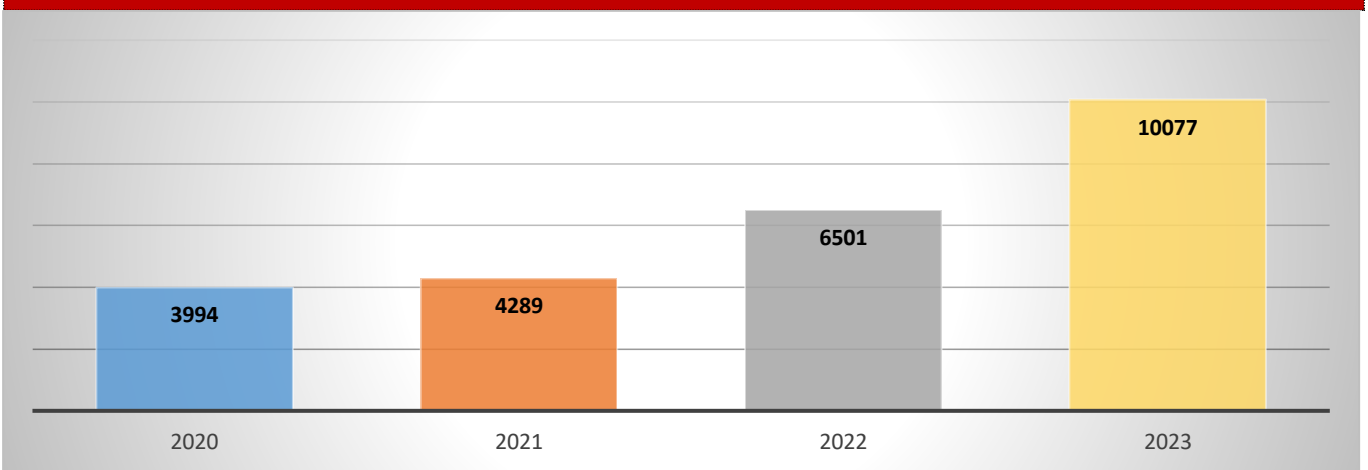
Source: Peace Now

Annual Number of Illegal Israeli Settlement Housing Units Promoted in the Occupied Jerusalem 2013 – 2023

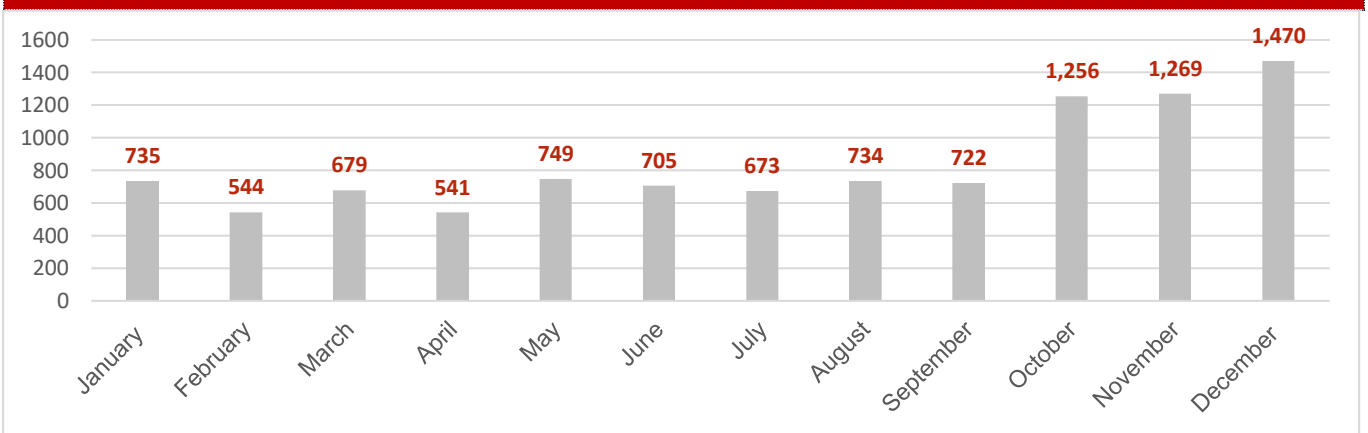


Source: Ir Amim

Israeli Military Raids by Year: 2020-2023

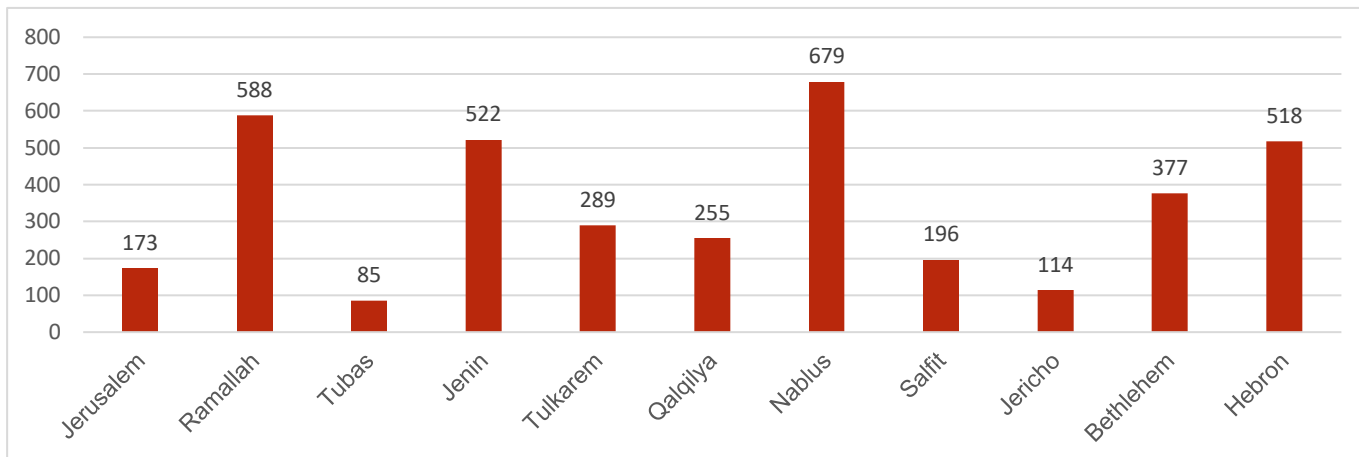


Israeli Military Raids in 2023 by Month



During this period, there were 3,796 military raids, concentrated in Nablus, Ramallah, Hebron, and Jenin governorates.

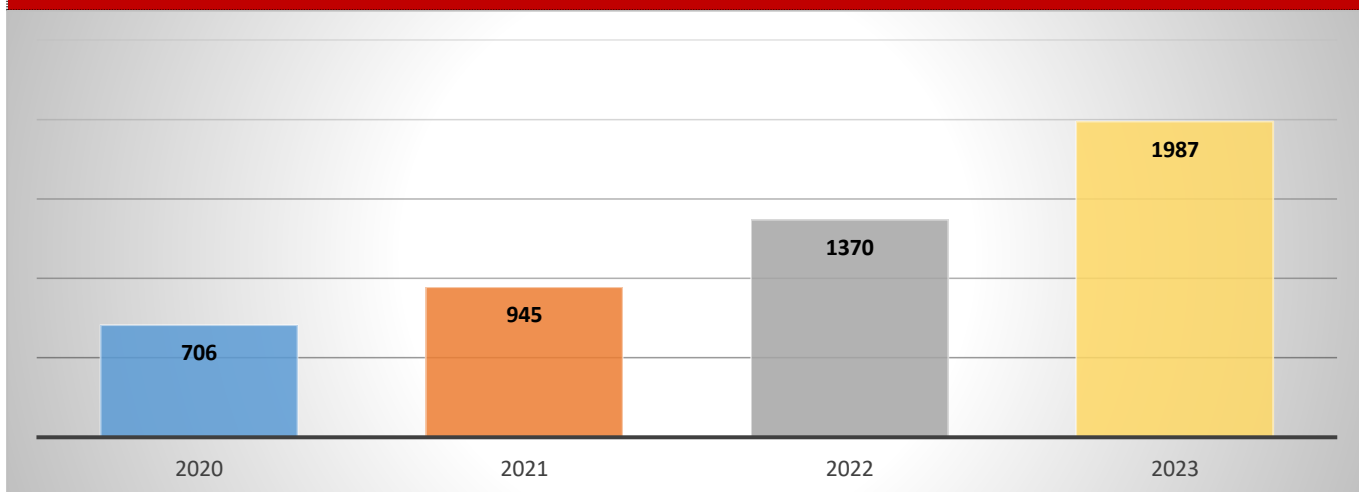
Israeli Military Raids in 2023 by Governorate



Israeli Settlers' Terror Attacks

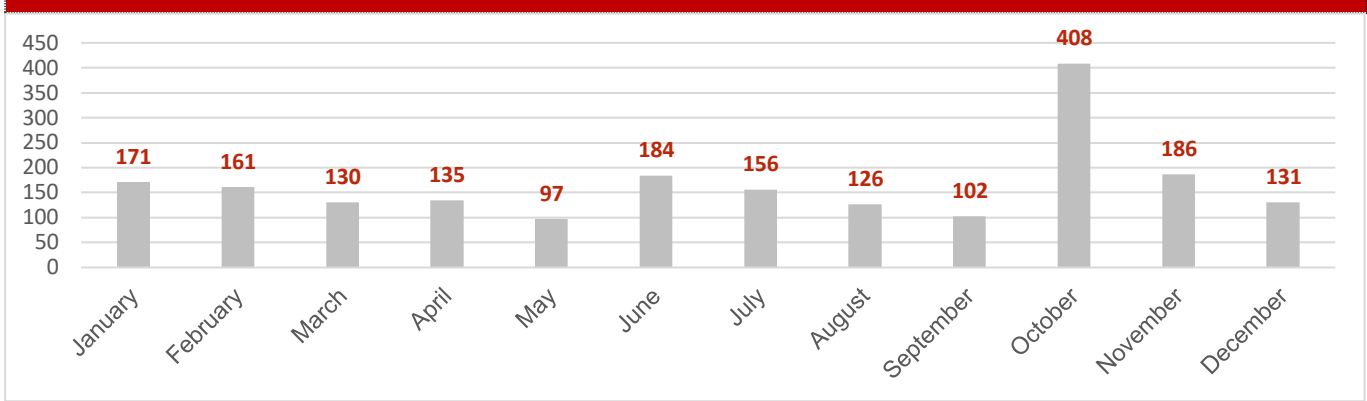
In comparison with the past three years, the year 2023 witnessed the most violent year in settlers' terror attacks against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. **During 2023, Israeli settlers were involved in 1,987 terror attacks incidents⁵, which resulted in the killing of 36 Palestinians**, incl. driving into citizens, throwing stones at citizens' homes and vehicles, and in some cases burning them, physically assaulting and directly shooting at citizens, storming villages and towns, damaging/looting their properties, bulldozing lands and uprooting/damaging trees besides drawing racist slogans on the walls and vehicles. The highest rate of attacks took place during October, which recorded 408 incidents, and most settlers' attacks during 2023 took place consecutively in the governorates of Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah, and Salfit. According to a report by the Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission (CWRC) on Israeli violations: throughout 2023, the Israeli settlers uprooted 21,731 trees, incl. 18,964 olive trees, most of which were uprooted/damaged in Nablus governorate (4,352 trees), Hebron governorate (4,910 trees), and Ramallah governorate (5,811 trees).

Israeli Settlers' Terror Attack Incidents: 2020-2023

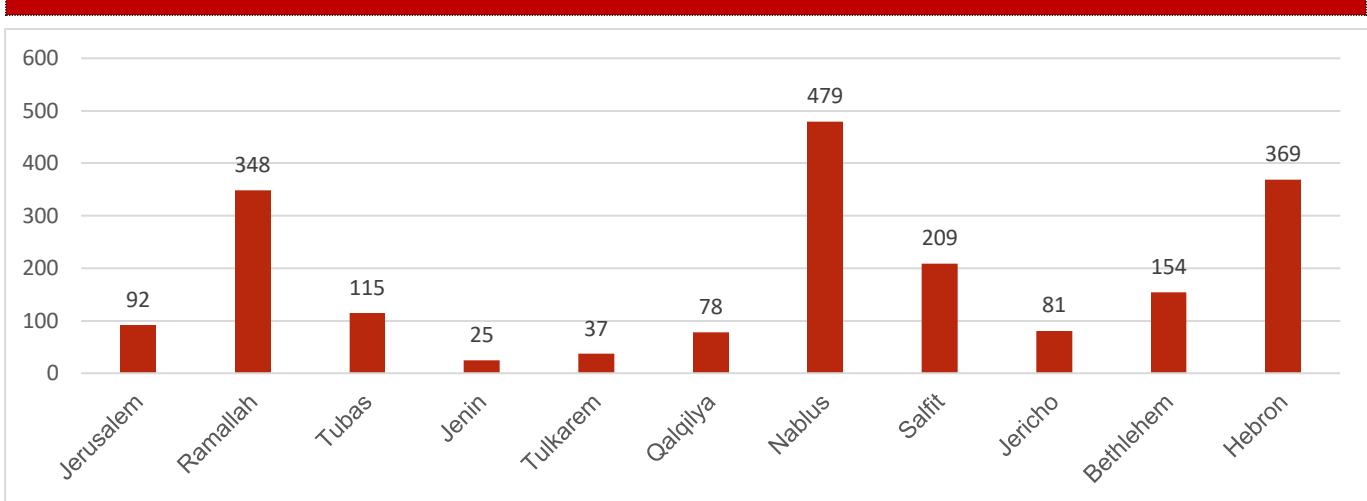


⁵ Multiple attacks may occur in the same incident

Israeli Settlers' Terror Attack Incidents in 2023 by Month



Israeli Settlers' Terror Attack Incidents in 2023 by Governorate



Here are a few examples:

- **On 24 November in Hebron Governorate:** a settler while driving his vehicle on the bypass road east of the town of Yatta, ran over and killed Ayman Mohammad Al-Halis (38 years old with special needs).
- **On 28 October in Nablus Governorate,** illegal settlers stormed Palestinian farmers' agricultural lands in al-Sawiya village. They opened fire and killed Bilal Shahin (40 years old farmer) while he harvested olives.
- **On 12 October - [The abduction and torture of a Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission \(CWRC\) team in Ramallah Governorate:](#)** Israeli soldiers and armed settlers abducted and severely assaulted three Palestinians, incl. two employees working for the CWRC, for a whole day. The abuse lasted for a whole day. The victims reported that soldiers and settlers bound, stripped, beaten, burned cigarettes, and urinated on them for a whole day. This was in the village of Wadi Al-Siq, south of Taybeh, east of Ramallah. Further, they tried to insert an object into one of their bodies and took photos of them naked in their underwear.
- **On 11 October - The attack on Qusra village in Nablus Governorate:** settlers attacked the southeastern part of Qusra, aiming live ammunition at Palestinian homes and residents. Consequently, four Palestinians incl. one child were shot dead; Obada Abu Srur (17), Hasan Abu Srur (20), Musa'b Abu Reidi (20) and Mu'ath Odeh (29), and 11 others were injured. A day later, settlers under IOF protection attacked the Qusra martyrs' funeral and opened fire at Palestinian mourners. As a result, Ibrahim Wadi (63 years old) and his son Ahmad were shot dead.

- **On 21 June - [The attacks on the villages of Turmus'ayya, north of Ramallah, and Urif, south of Nablus.](#)** In Turmus'ayya, in Ramallah Governorate, about 400 illegal settlers affiliated with "Hilltop Youth" carried out organized terrorist attacks on the village of Turmus'ayya, north of Ramallah, burning several homes and vehicles. The attack led to the complete burning down of 12 houses and partial damage to 23 others. Settlers also smashed 24 homes' windows and doors and set fire to and damaged more than 36 vehicles. During these attacks, the IOF's gunfire killed a Palestinian man and injured 13 others. Additionally, around 70 acres of the town's agricultural land were set on fire. And in Urif, in Nablus Governorate, over 150 settlers attacked the town and burned a classroom at Urif Mixed Secondary School. The town's residents resisted the attack, during which settlers burned crops and attacked Palestinian homes. An elderly Palestinian woman was shot with live ammunition during the attack, and several other Palestinians suffered suffocation due to the IOF's heavy tear gas use.
- **On 26 February- The attacks on Huwara and other villages in the South of Nablus:** a group of armed settlers stormed the town of Huwara and the villages of Burin, Asira Al-Qibliya, Za'tara, Yatma, and Al-Khan area in al-Luban, and al-Sharqiya village, and opened fire on Palestinians and their vehicles, killing Sameh Hamdallah Aqtash (37). In Huwara alone, the settlers' brutality and ruthlessness resulted in the partial burning of 14 homes (incl. two houses under construction), the burning of at least 45 cars (incl. 28 licensed cars), and the smashing of 16 homes and 40 licensed cars. Additionally, four commercial shops and eight junkyards containing at least 1,200 cars were partially burned. The Ministry of Health reported that over 400 Palestinians were wounded, incl. 102 by live ammunition. They were transferred to public and private hospitals.

In Focus: Summary of Israeli Violations in occupied Jerusalem⁶

- **Killings:** IOF killed 59 Palestinians, incl. 20 children in occupied Jerusalem, 51 of whom were Jerusalemites.
- **Injuries:** IOF's use of excessive force against Jerusalemites in almost daily confrontations in various parts of occupied Jerusalem resulted in 543 injuries from live bullets, rubber-coated metal bullets, severe beatings, and gas suffocation cases. The most prominent case was in February 2023, when Rami Hamouda was shot while driving his vehicle in the Shuafat refugee camp. The IOF bullets struck him in the stomach and exited through his back. While he was bleeding and receiving treatment, the IOF arrested him from inside an ambulance. In July, another young man, Mohammad Derbas, was injured by IOF bullets after leaving his home in Al-Issawiya. Derbas was heading to work when he was surprised by a military raid on his town. IOF live bullets struck his thigh and injured him.
- **Home Demolitions:** IOF demolished 218 structures, incl. 104 homes and one donor-funded structure, resulting in the displacement of 121 families (593 individuals, incl. 303 children), and otherwise affecting 256 families (5,939 individuals, incl. 3,434 children) (UNOCHA).
- **Settlers' Terror Attacks:** In 2023, Israeli settlers launched 225 attacks, incl. 50 physical assaults (compared to 489 attacks, incl. 112 physical assaults, in 2022, and 110 attacks in 2021).
- **Storming Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound:** 55,158 settlers and 749,877 foreign visitors (under tourism pretext) stormed into the Mosque. Over 8,000 settlers stormed the Mosque in October, the highest record in 2023.
- **Entry Bans:** occupation authorities issued about 740 such orders, incl. 561 orders prohibiting Jerusalemites' entry into the Aqsa Mosque Compound, as well as other orders banning/ restricting Palestinians' right to live one's home, neighborhood, or city for a certain period of time or until further notice. The highest number of such orders was recorded in April (461).
- **Travel Bans:** occupation authorities issued 38 travel ban decisions, preventing Palestinians from leaving the country for a period of one to six months.
- **House Arrests:** occupation authorities issued 316 house arrest orders, with April recording the highest number at 57. These orders ranged in duration from two days to indefinite "open" confinement, where no specific expiry date was provided. Comparing these figures to previous years, it's evident that the occupation authorities have increased the use of house arrest in 2023. The number of such orders rose from 176 in 2021 to 214 in 2022.

⁶ Main Source: The Public Relations and Media Unit of the Jerusalem Governorate, unless otherwise indicated.