

Israel's Crimes in the West Bank

RED ALERT | N° 19

Oslo II and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

In September 1995, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Israeli government [signed](#) the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Oslo II), which initiated a process aimed at eventually creating a Palestinian state adjacent to Israel in parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The OPT only [accounts](#) for 22% of historic Palestine (defined as the territory that was under the British Mandate). In other words, Palestinians were left less than a quarter of their historic land, and even on that land, they have little to no authority. Following the interim agreement, the West Bank was divided into [three areas](#):

1. Area A, which is technically under full Palestinian civil and security control through the Palestinian Authority and constitutes approximately 18% of the West Bank, or 3.96% of historic Palestine.
2. Area B, which is under Palestinian civil control through the Palestinian Authority but effectively with Israeli security control and makes up around 22% of the West Bank, or 4.62% of historic Palestine.



3. Area C, which is fully controlled by Israel and comprises over 60% of the West Bank, or 13.42% of historic Palestine.

Effectively, according to the logic of Oslo II – and after the annexation of East Jerusalem and occupation of Gaza – Israel controls 97% of historic Palestine.

The Suffocation of Palestinians in the West Bank

Israel's operations in the West Bank have been designed to make life unbearable for Palestinians. The controls and restrictions on [movement](#) have made it virtually impossible for Palestinians to educate their youth and employ their adults. Before October 2023, Israel operated [590](#) roadblocks and checkpoints in the West Bank, which has risen to nearly [900](#) since then and resulted in a near-complete stoppage of basic human activity. It has become impossible for Palestinians to [access](#) water and land for agricultural production as well as the potable [water](#) necessary for a decent life. Israel's [criminalisation](#) of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has severely disrupted the organisation's operations, preventing Palestinian refugees (roughly a [quarter](#) of the Palestinians who live in the West Bank) from accessing basic education, health, and employment services.

Displacement and Confiscation

Israel is carrying out ethnic cleansing in the West Bank, using tactics such as shootings, pogroms, sexual violence, and the destruction of homes and farms to expel people from their lands even more rapidly. Since the start of Operation Iron Wall in

January 2025, the Israeli military has forcibly displaced 8,255 Palestinian families from their homes in the refugee camps of Jenin (3,840 families displaced), Nur Shams (1,910 families displaced), and Tulkarm (2,505 families displaced). These families are the direct descendants of the Palestinian refugees who were ethnically cleansed from their homes during the 1948 Nakba and have been denied their right of return ever since. In addition to these refugee camps, Israel's occupation forces – which include both the formal Israeli army and armed Israeli settlers – [drove](#) 28 Palestinian communities off their lands between January 2022 and September 2023 and destroyed over 3,500 built structures, including homes, livestock sheds, and water cisterns in the West Bank between October 2023 and April 2025.

Death, Arrest, and Torture

Since October 2023, Israel's occupation forces have [killed](#) approximately 900 Palestinians in the West Bank, including at least 190 children, and injured 8,400 more. These numbers are likely higher given the lack of humanitarian organisations to properly document the violence carried out by Israel in an area whose institutions have been deeply impacted by the genocide and ongoing occupation. Since late 2023, Israel's occupation forces have arrested 15,000 Palestinians, many under the category of 'administrative detention', which does not require a formal charge (these figures are likely deflated due to the severe restrictions on legal representation). Since 7 October 2023, there have been more than 65 documented cases of Palestinians being murdered in Israeli prisons, detention centres, and concentration camps. Sexual violence is routine in these camps.

The Bisan Centre for Research and Development, the International Peoples' Assembly, and Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research call upon intellectuals, civil society groups, and political and social organisations to pay close attention to the developments not only in Gaza, but also in the other parts of the OPT. The ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity cannot be ignored or allowed to continue with impunity.

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