

2023






**The Jerusalem Legal Aid  
& Human Rights Center  
Annual Report**



## Contact Us

Ramallah Office  
Millennium Bldg., 3<sup>rd</sup> fl  
Kamal Nasser St.

Tel: +970 2 298 7981  
Fax: +970 2 2987982

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Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center

Annual Report 2023

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# Hope from Under the Rubble



The events of October 7th and their aftermath can be aptly described as seismic, not only for their sheer scale of destruction, but for the upheaval of deep-seated beliefs and convictions buried beneath the debris. Casualties include not only the lives of infants, children, and adults but also cherished concepts and expectations. In this upheaval, a troubling array of racism and alliances has surfaced, exposing the colonial roots of nations that either supported or silently condoned war crimes and crimes against humanity.


The aftermath witnessed the resurgence of Islamophobia, certain forms of anti-Semitism, and a new strain of anti-Palestinian racism in major Western countries, laying bare the hypocrisy behind their claimed values and principles. International humanitarian law, human rights law, and the rights system forged after the Second World War were undermined, failing to prevent egregious war crimes. Major powers, through their bias, committed resources to support crimes and protect criminals, further contributing to this descent.

In contrast, widespread popular protests erupted across the globe, despite efforts by many of the nations to suppress protests. Restrictive laws were even enacted to limit such inalienable rights as the right to assembly and freedom of opinion and expression, in contradiction of their own constitutions. As though the claim to uphold the values of freedom, justice, and human rights is exempt when it comes to solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Humanitarian aid has been politicized, and civil institutions, especially those Palestinian or sympathetic to Palestine, have been subjected to political and financial pressures. Such has even reached the point of close scrutiny of all public statements, either published or joined. Attempts have been made to impose the use of certain phrases and prohibit the use of certain terms without regard to legal basis in international law.

Simultaneously, the racist nature of Israel's ruling coalition was overlooked, allowing racist practices and the denial of UN decisions to persist.

Statements endorsing the expulsion of the majority of Gaza's population were met with mild comments, failing to explicitly condemn calls for forced displacement, tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Such was evident when the racist Israeli minister Smotrich repeatedly called for the expulsion of more than 90% of Gaza's population outside of Palestine, and a major European state merely commented by saying the calls were "unhelpful" without explicitly condemning them as calls for forced displacement, a war crime and a crime against humanity.



These events laid bare the deep-rooted racism in Israeli society, revealing the infiltration of settlers at various levels in the occupation army, making every crime against Palestinians seemingly permissible. We saw the blatant racism of occupation officials being not limited to ministers and coalition deputies, but encompassing the overwhelming majority of the political spectrum, media, and even the streets. We heard the weaponization of passages from the Torah recounting historical massacres committed against the people of this land during the time of the Canaanites and calls for their replication.

All the while, the world witnessed as crimes in Gaza unfolded in real-time, explicitly targeting civilians, rescue workers, journalists, humanitarian relief workers, and essential infrastructure as sewage facilities, desalination plants, and shelter centers.

Gaza, in its narrow and constricted geography, received more than twice the bombardment of ammunition and explosives than dropped on Hiroshima at the end of World War II. No war crime has been left uncommitted, yet some countries vote against or abstain from voting for a cessation of the aggression and continue military, economic, and political support for war criminals. Nevertheless, official media outlets played a dubious role in dehumanizing Palestinians, echoing Israeli propaganda even after the exposure of forgery and lies.

The majority of the Palestinian people have lost trust in the human rights system and the so-called world order. They view with skepticism some international bodies, including the International Criminal Court, and no longer believe the illusions promoted by some major Western countries of the existence of rule of law and human rights.

We conclude this year laden with sorrow, frustration, despair, and anger, seeing no positive signs for a path leading us to freedom, justice, and security.

In this atmosphere saturated with polarization, extremism, and hate, we bear increasing burdens and face scarcity of resources as a result of the legal, financial, and political pressures to silence our voices. We do not know where we are heading, but what we are certain of is that the sun of freedom will rise.

We bet on our people's belief in their rights, their determination to exist, and their rejection of plans for their displacement and cleansing.

Our numbers between the river and the sea exceed 7.25 million; a number that cannot be exhausted or subdued, no matter how severe the sacrifice. Regardless, it is our duty to continue to adhere to rule of law and call for the values of freedom, liberation, and justice.

**We thank everyone who supports us and our decisions on this path, and we appreciate this great trust. You will not be betrayed, nor will we betray our friends and people.**

**Issam Aruri**

General Director

**Amin Inabi**

Chairman of the Board of Directors

# Who We Are

Established in 1974 by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the Jerusalem Legal Aid & Human Rights Center (JLAC) has remained steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding the human rights of Palestinians.

Over the years, JLAC has adapted its focus to address the most urgent concerns of the time, with emphasis currently placed on protecting vulnerable communities in East Jerusalem and

Area C, ensuring their rights to housing, livelihood, and public freedoms.

Through the provision of pro bono legal aid, outreach efforts, and advocacy initiatives, JLAC endeavors to hold various Duty Bearers, including the Israeli government in East Jerusalem, its military apparatus in Area C, and the Palestinian Authority, accountable for their responsibilities.





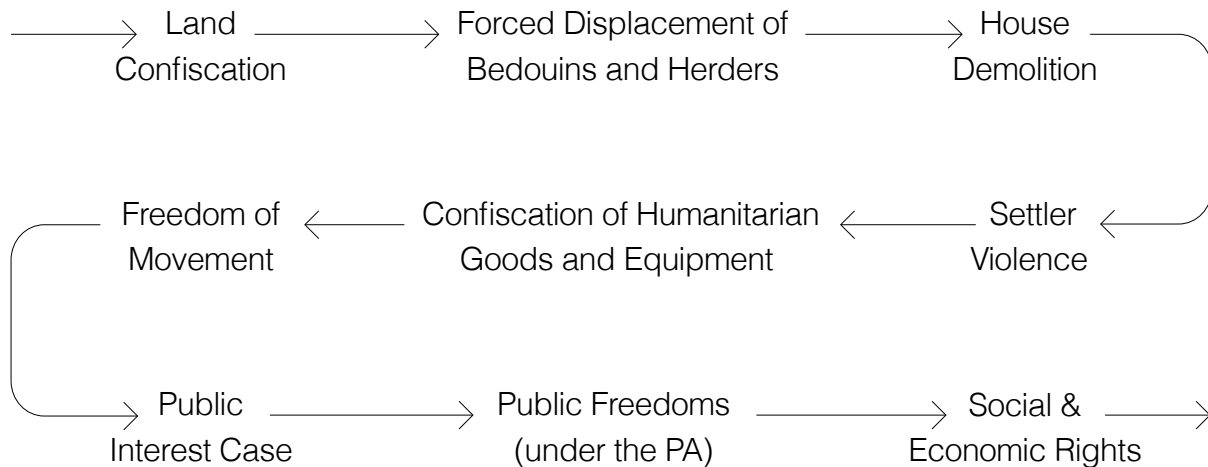
## Vision

A free and independent Palestinian society founded on principles of justice, in which human dignity is valued and respected.

## Mission

Combating human rights violations regardless of perpetrating authority, through facilitating access to available legal systems, lobbying and advocacy, mobilizing social efforts, and high professionalism.

## Areas of Intervention



# Creating a Coercive Environment Leading to Displacement in the Occupied West Bank

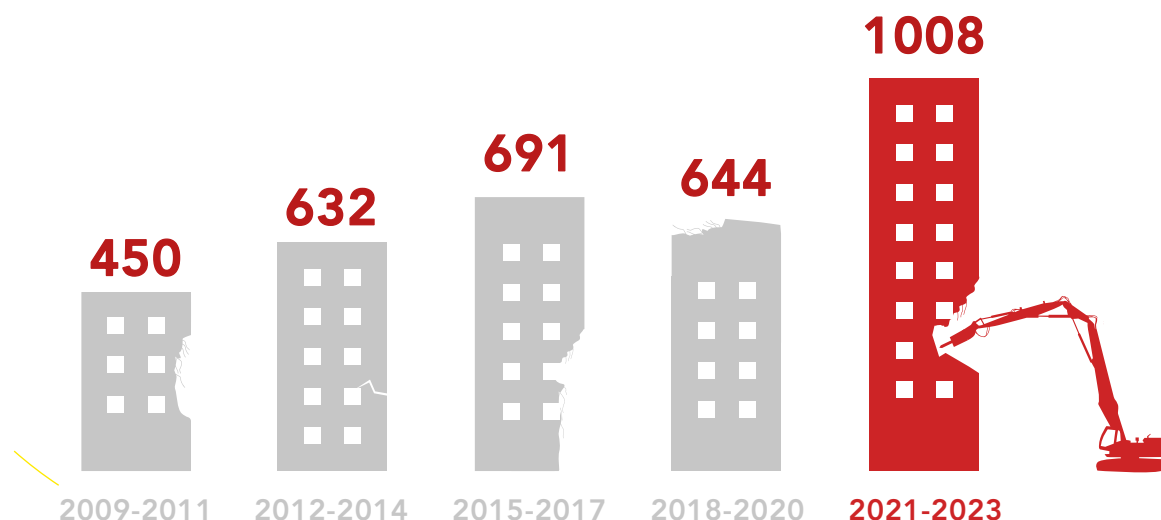
The West Bank, including East Jerusalem, witnessed unprecedented conditions in 2023, encompassing Areas A, B, and C, with no significant distinctions. The heightened situation emanates from escalations in Israel's expansionist aims, as brought on by the most extreme and racist agenda of a ruling coalition seen in the history of occupation.

Indeed, colonization is the driving force behind all actions taken by the Israeli authorities, with measures (classified under forced displacement) being carried out by its army and settler militias.

Ultimately, military measures have created a coercive environment affecting all facets of life, including economic suffocation. The Palestinian National Authority itself has been unable to escape financial repercussions, with the Israeli Ministry of Finance withholding significant Palestinian tax revenues.

Violations also encompasses confiscations, direct demolition and displacement, settler terrorism, construction of settler colonial roads, and establishment of more settler colonial outposts while restricting freedom of movement.

## Average House Demolition (every 3 years)



# Right to Life & Settler Terror

Since October 7th, 262 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank, including 67 children. Settler violence accounted for 9 of the deaths (including one child), with the Israeli military holding responsibility for the remainder. This figure represents more than half of the total fatalities in the West Bank, recorded in 2023, amounting to 499, according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

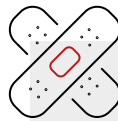
Additionally, OCHA reported the injury of 12,526 Palestinians, including 1,713 children and 223 women. Of the injuries, 358 were caused by settlers and the remaining majority by the Israeli military.

Already reaching a record high with an average of three incidents per day in the first nine months of 2023, settler violence experienced an alarming spike post-October 7th, initially escalating to seven incidents per day. According to OCHA, 351 settler attacks against Palestinians were documented, involving 81 incidents of physical assault and 270 instances of property damage. The situation is being further aggravated by Israel's Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir's, policies to distribute 10,000 firearms and combat equipment (i.e., protective vests, helmets, etc.) among Israeli settlers predominantly in West Bank.



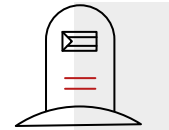
**351**

**Settler Attacks**



**12,526**

**Persons Injured**



**499**

**Persons Killed**

# Arrest



**7,800**

**Persons Detained  
(in Total)**



**84**

**Female Detainees**



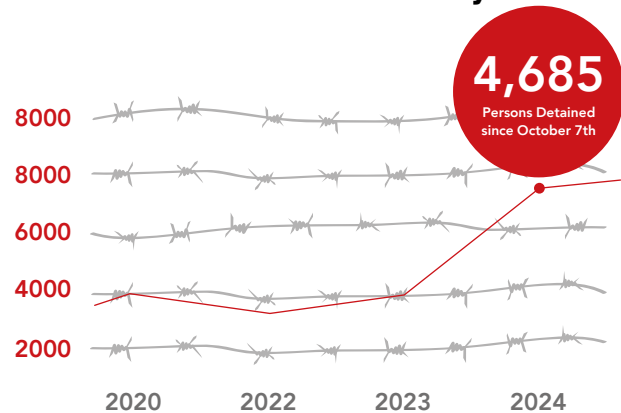
**7**

**People Killed  
in Custody**

Extensive arrest campaigns, affecting various regions of the West Bank, have led to documented cases of over 4,685 arrests in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Such brings the total number of prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons to more than 7,800, with detainees subjected to brutal arrest operations, destruction of property, and arbitrary administrative detention.

Inside prisons, detainees, including 7 prisoners killed under torture, endure harsh conditions marked by deliberate medical neglect, punitive measures, and torture methods such as beatings and humiliation. Female prisoners, numbering around 84, face assaults, overcrowding, and inadequate living conditions. Administrative detention has surged to approximately 2,500 cases, targeting activists, journalists, and released prisoners.

Palestinian children also suffer arbitrary detention, while a disturbing policy involves



detaining family members to pressure individuals to surrender. Gaza workers, arrested post-aggression, also report torture and inhumane treatment. The occupation authorities, through legal amendments, further impede detainees' rights, including extended detention periods and restricted lawyer access, constituting enforced disappearance crimes. The alarming situation underscores a flagrant disregard for international human rights standards and agreements.

# A Dark Year for Journalists

The ongoing Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip has led to the murder of 106 journalists, bloggers, and social media activists, according to sources from the Ministry of Health. Of whom, the International Committee to Protect Journalists reported the death toll to be 77 journalists in Gaza within the scope of less than 3 months. This unprecedented death toll is unparalleled in any war during the

twentieth and twenty-first centuries. toll is unparalleled in any war during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

For comparison, the bloodiest war of the twentieth century, World War II, had approximately 60 million casualties, including 69 journalists over 6 years. While the U.S. war in Vietnam resulted in the death of 63 journalists over a span of 20 years.



# 106

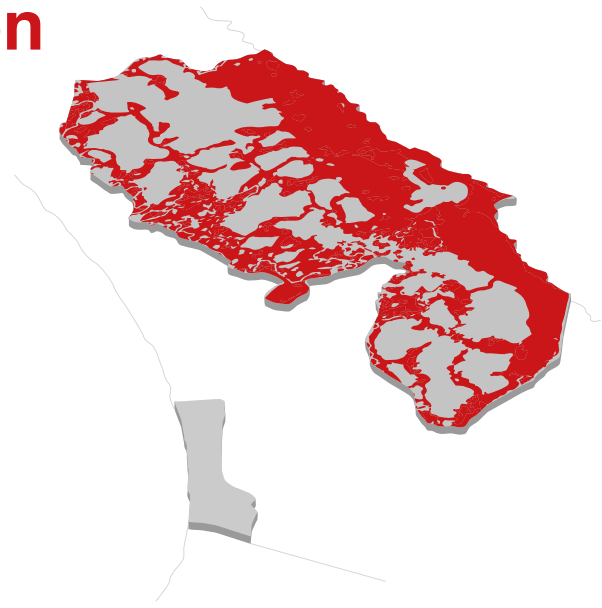
**Journalist killed in Gaza**




**77** Announced by the International  
Committee to Protect Journalists

# Settlement Expansion

At the forefront of Israel's forceful displacement measures lie their expansionist aims, as reflected in the continued settlement expansion witnessed throughout 2023. According to data disclosed by the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ), a total of 58 new settlement expansion plans were announced in East Jerusalem since the start of the year. These plans encompass the construction of 5,760 new housing units, spanning an extensive 3,470 dunums of land. Similarly, the remainder of the West Bank, experienced the declaration of 152 settlement expansion initiatives, incorporating 21,988 facilities such as residential structures, industries, roads, and public gardens, distributed across 8,657 dunums of land.

Intensified construction during times of war and military operations, is typical of Israeli settlers, as witnessed during the "Guardian of the Walls" operation in May 2021, when the Evyatar outpost was established in the lands of the villages of Yatma and Beita. In the first 6-weeks since October 7th alone, an unprecedented surge in illegal construction by settlers across the West Bank has been noted with four new outposts and nine unauthorized settler roads constructed. Each of the unauthorized roads span hundreds of meters and, in some cases, several kilometers, with one of the roads paved within a declared nature reserve. Often on and/or bisecting privately owned Palestinian land and access therein, such roads are a tactic employed in facilitating the takeover of significant areas of land.



Area "C"	Jerusalem	
<b>152</b>	<b>58</b>	 <b>Settlement expansion plan</b>
<b>21,988</b>	<b>5,760</b>	 <b>Facilities</b>
<b>8,657</b>	<b>3,470</b>	 <b>Dunums of Land</b>

# Freedom of Movement

Israeli authorities continued imposing significant restrictions on the movement of Palestinians, treating freedom of movement as a privilege that they can grant or deny. This became even more apparent after the events of October 7th, with the addition of 49 new checkpoints and the alteration or activation of 100 others. This raised the total number of obstacles and impediments to movement to 649, according to the documentation of the Humanitarian Aid Coordination Office affiliated with the United Nations as of December 15.

The Israeli authorities significantly curtailed freedom of movement by revoking almost all movement permits, eliminating the exceptions previously granted to specific age groups. They imposed substantial restrictions on the operational days and hours of the Karameh or Allenby Bridge, the sole entry/exit point connecting the West Bank to the outside world along the Jordanian border. Additionally, all Palestinians, including those with

temporary residence in occupied Jerusalem, were barred from traveling through Ben Gurion Airport. Consequently, families were compelled to travel separately, contingent on the specific ID type (or “color”) and the nature of the permit/residency held by each member.

Following the events of October 7th, the agricultural gate permit system along the annexation wall was stopped. This measure coincided with the olive harvesting season and was reinforced by aggression orchestrated by settler militias. Consequently, around 20% of farmers in the northern West Bank were denied the opportunity to harvest their olives, with many falling victims to assaults mirroring the troubling incidents in the Gaza Strip. While some attacks occurred along routes leading to olive groves situated in proximity to settlements, others extended to areas as far as several kilometers away.



# Record High in Housing and Livelihood Demolition



**1,119**  
Structures Demolished



**2,210**  
Persons Displaced



**44,000+**  
People Affected



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In 2023, there was an unprecedented surge in demolition and displacement violations, marking a historic record high with the demolition of 1,119 residences and structures in East Jerusalem and Area C. This resulted in the forced displacement of 2,210 individuals and affecting an additional approximate 44,000 lives.

This surpassed the previous record set in 2016 for the highest number of demolitions within a single year since the signing of the Oslo Accords. The year 2016 saw 1,094 demolitions and 1,593 displacements, followed by another spike recorded in 2022 which brought 952 demolitions and 1,031 displacements.

The 2023 demolition/displacement figures do not include the more than a thousand individuals belonging to 15 Bedouin and pastoral communities who were forcibly deported at the hands of settler terror groups. The year 2024 is expected to bring a continued surge in forced displacement. Data from the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission

revealed that 1,333 demolition orders were issued by Israeli authorities in 2023. Such is in addition to the activation of frozen demolition files from previous years and the narrowing of existing space for legal intervention.

These violations are occurring within the context of unprecedented extremism within the Israeli government, transforming it into an administration led by the extremist Smotrich and primarily serving the settler agenda.


**Given this situation, JLAC has adopted 489 new cases related to demolition of homes and livelihood structures in Jerusalem and Area C in 2023. Such is also coupled with the follow-up of 3,309 demolition/ displacement cases at various stages of litigation, including the submission of 48 petitions before the Central and Israeli Supreme Courts involving tens of cases. This marks a historical record of treated cases for JLAC.**



**489**  
New Cases



**3,309**  
On-going Cases



**48**  
Petitions

# **Destruction of Infrastructure, Refugee Camps Main Target**

Since October 7th, there has been a disturbing escalation in the frequency and intensity of incursions carried out by Israeli occupation forces into various cities and refugee camps across the West Bank, demonstrating a disregard for any zone classification. This aggressive approach, characterized by the deployment of heavy machinery, bulldozers, and military vehicles, unveils a stark intention on Israel's part to inflict collective punishment on the Palestinian population through widespread destruction and bloodshed. Notably, refugee camps have become primary targets, with a particular focus on those in the northern West Bank, such as the Tulkarm and Nur

Shams refugee camps, singled out for their symbolic significance as centers of resistance.

The scope of devastation extends beyond mere collateral damage, encompassing deliberate attacks on crucial infrastructure, including homes, mosques, water networks, power lines, vehicles, and roads. The brutal clearing of paths for military vehicles suggests a strategic effort to render these areas virtually uninhabitable. The systematic targeting of such fundamental aspects of daily life within these communities raises concerns of a broader foreshadowing of a more ominous plan aimed at the eventual erasure of these refugee camps.



# Salfit in the Crosshairs

In 2023, the Salfit governorate bore the brunt of demolition notices, enduring an intense onslaught, its most severe in three years, emanating from the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) and fueled by settler terrorism. JLAC addressed a total of 229 demolition orders within the Salfit Governorate, with the majority belonging to the towns of Deir Ballut and Qarawat Bani Hasan. The Center's interventions also encompassed addressing 13 cases of equipment confiscation, 3 cases related to public interest, and 3 incidents of settler violence in the governorate.



**229**

**Demolition  
Orders Addressed**



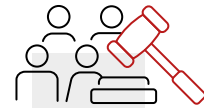
**13**

**Confiscation Cases  
Undertaken**



**3**

**Settler Violence  
Cases**



**3**

**Public Interest  
Cases**



# East Jerusalem

The city of Jerusalem continued to witness the enforcement of ethnic cleansing policies, paralleling actions in other Palestinian areas, by way of punitive measures enacted by the occupying authorities. These measures encompassed home demolitions, ID revocations, arrests, suppression of public freedoms, and the prohibition of Palestinian entry into Jerusalem.

2023 witnessed the senseless loss of 41 lives in Jerusalem, the demolition 229 structures (including 138 residences) and displacement of 633 individuals who found themselves without homes (among them 325 children).

A comparative analysis revealed that demolitions in 2023 reached a decade-long high with a 63% increase from the previous year, during which 144 structures had been demolished. It should also be noted that 59 structures faced demolition in the immediate aftermath of October 7.

Punitive actions against buildings and facilities in Jerusalem were also carried out, to the further frustration of the local community.

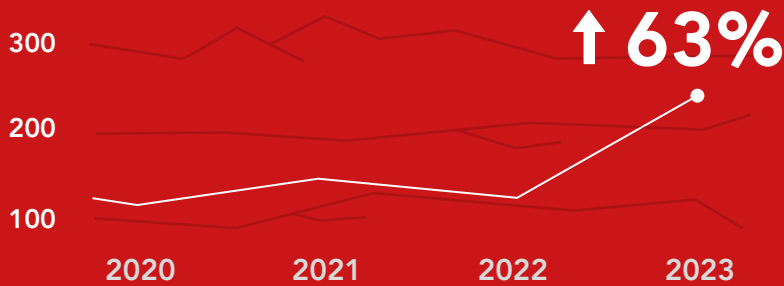
The year 2023 saw the demolition of 7 homes on punitive grounds (a form of collective punishment), resulting in the displacement of 28 individuals, 16 (more than half) of whom were children.

The revocation of IDs also took a concerning turn in November, when the Israeli Knesset approved a law allowing the Minister of the Interior to revoke the identities of Jerusalemites under the pretext of "breach of loyalty to the State of Israel".

This legislative move, aimed to circumvent previous rejections by the Israeli Supreme Court, necessitates a new law that contravenes the court's decisions and places the residency rights of thousands of Jerusalemites in jeopardy.

Throughout 2023, over 2,612 Jerusalemites, including 308 children and 128 women, were subjected to military arrest. Such involved the issuance of 143 administrative detention orders and 724 deportation decisions, of which 577 regarded individuals exercising their right to worship in Al-Aqsa Mosque. An additional 308 Jerusalemites, including children, were placed under house arrest.

Moreover, since October 7th all Palestinians holding Gazan or the West Bank IDs have been prohibited from entering Jerusalem, even for purposes as medical treatment. This restriction has had significant repercussions on the city's economy and trade, with tourism also being completely halted and educational institutions experiencing partial paralysis. Additionally, numerous Palestinians employed in Jerusalem have faced termination solely based on their ethnicity.



**229**

Structures Demolished



**2,612** | 308 children  
128 women

People Detained



**41**

People Killed



**633**

People Displaced

# Situation Under the Palestinian Authority



Throughout the year, the situation under the Palestinian Authority (PA) continued to be characterized by heightened tensions stemming from instability, be it challenges imposed by Israeli invasions, the escalation of settler terrorism, or Israel's ongoing withholding of tax revenues. The later, exacerbating the financial deficit that hampers the PA's ability to meet its commitments. Such has been reflected in sector-wide strikes for the second consecutive year, especially in the education and health sectors which almost jeopardized the academic year, fueled by rumors and leaked news about imminent governmental reforms.

## Many attribute the instability to the following reasons:

- The undermining of the PA and its political efforts by the state of Israel through such practices as intensified invasions, abuses against political prisoners, and the unprecedented spread of settler terrorism. These practices were not isolated incidents following October 7th, but rather noteworthy developments that have intensified since the establishment of the most extremist and racially biased government in Israel's history.

- Erosion of the PA's legitimacy, which has been growing since the cancellation of the general elections in the spring of 2021, and the absence of any serious dialogue that opens prospects for political participation, renewal in leadership, and the revitalization of aging structures, alongside diminishing anti-corruption efforts.
- Poor governmental performance, coupled with the initiation of numerous vows and programs that have failed to gain the trust of citizens.
- Lack of genuine will to enhance the capabilities and independence of the judiciary, coupled with some strikes, significantly contributing to a judicial backlog and slow legal proceedings. This has increased frustration on the streets, weakened rule of law, and led to some resorting to vigilantism as manifested in the spread of arms or alternative means of conflict resolution.

There have been improvements in certain areas, including the approval of the national mechanism for preventing torture (though not yet implemented) and a reduction in the controversial decisions made under this provocative law. However, the considerable decrease in arbitrary detentions following a ruling declaring its unconstitutionality did not prevent arrests related to freedom of expression, classifying them as political arrests. Reports of torture, circumvention of court decisions, and a decline in government dialogue with civil society continued along with the lack of confidence in the latter's ability to yield anything beyond opportunities for public relations.

All these issues occurred prior to the extensive aggression that erupted in the last quarter of the year. The intensification of challenges, including widening invasions, extrajudicial executions, illegal demolitions, forced displacement, severe restrictions on freedom of movement, settler violence, settlement expansion, including the legalization of settlement outposts, only served to exacerbate existing problems. Moreover, as challenges intensify, the PA's stark inability to effectively address them becomes increasingly more evident.

# A Historic Year; Unprecedented Need for Legal Interventions

In the year 2023, a historic escalation in Israeli violation of Palestinians' fundamental rights in the West Bank unfolded, predating the events following October 7th . This unsettling development can be attributed to the establishment of the most extreme and biased governing coalition in the history of the State of Israel. Spearheaded by some of its most fervently racist members, entrusted with pivotal portfolios concerning Palestinians, with settlers transitioning from a mere lobby group to a military authority effectively governing and controlling the West Bank.

Consequently, JLAC has experienced an extreme influx of new cases necessitating prompt legal intervention. Throughout 2023, an astounding 837 new cases (372 within Area C) were undertaken. Such was the case despite the final quarter of the year witnessing a discernible 35% reduction in case numbers; a decline primarily attributed to stringent constraints on the freedom of movement. However, this decrease unfolded amidst an unparalleled surge in assaults on residences, livelihood and essential structures, and lands, coupled with terrorism as orchestrated by settler militias. This year's figure surpasses the 750 new cases undertaken by JLAC in 2022, marking another year of record-breaking numbers. In total, JLAC addressed 4,891 new and accumulated cases in 2023, a noteworthy increase from the 4,409 cases addressed in the preceding year.



**4,891**

**Total Cases (new & accumulated)**



**837**

**New Cases**



**372**

**New Cases (in Area "C")**



**↓ 35%**

**Reduction in Cases (in last quarter)**

# Table of Cases

Case Type			Treated Cases		Closed			Ongoing
			New	Accumulated	Positive	Negative	Other	
1	Public Interest	Public Interest (Israel)	26		14			12
			12	14	5	5	4	
	Public Interest (PA)	6		2			4	
	2	4	1	0	1			
2	Land Confiscation		155		4			151
			48	107	1	3	0	
3	Confiscation of Equipment/Aid		50		25			25
			27	23	25	0	0	
4	Settler Violence		65		3			62
			5	60	1	0	2	
5	Demolition/Displacement	House Demolition /WB	2097		50			2047
			278	1819	0	8	42	
	Punitive Demolition	2		1			1	
		2	0	0	0	1		
	House Demolition /EJ	105		35			70	
		19	86	30	3	2		
	Agricultural Facilities Demolition	1071		81			990	
		185	886	1	12	68		
Forced Displacement	533		29			504		
	15	518	0	1	28			
6	Jerusalem	Social Rights	305		20			285
			43	262	14	1	5	
	Economic Rights	24		13			11	
		12	12	13	0	0		



Case Type		Treated Cases		Closed			Ongoing	
		New	Accumulated	Positive	Negative	Other		
7	Movement	Permits	66		28			38
			43	23	9	3	16	
		Travel Ban	15		5			10
			12	3	2	0	3	
		Prisoner Visitation	0		0			0
			0	0	0	0	0	
Licenses in Jerusalem	88		59			29		
	79	9	57	1	1			
8	Bodies Campaign	210		20			190	
		39	171	20	0	0		
9	Public Freedoms (PA)	52		0			52	
		5	47	0	0	0		
10	Misc.	Miscellaneous (Israel)	20		12			8
			10	10	6	3	3	
		Miscellaneous (PA)	1		0			1
			1	0	0	0	0	
<b>Legal Representation Total</b>		<b>4891</b>		<b>401</b>			<b>4490</b>	
		<b>837</b>	<b>4054</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>176</b>		
<b>Legal Services/EJ</b>		<b>2026</b>						
<b>Legal Consultations</b>		<b>2791</b> (1,441 East Jerusalem, 1,200 Area C, 150 PA)						

# Community Outreach

JLAC's outreach initiatives in 2023 aimed to empower communities, raise awareness, and foster engagement on critical human rights issues. Through 55 village and community surveys, JLAC gained valuable insights into local needs towards informing intervention strategies.

During the year, 69 community awareness sessions (30 in Area C and 39 in Jerusalem) and 11 specialized training sessions (9 for law students and 2 for JLAC volunteers) were conducted concerning legal mechanisms in challenging Israeli violations to human rights. Two specialized meetings for village protection committees were also held, in Qarawat Bani Hasan

and Jyous, addressing demolition orders and permit application procedures.

JLAC also produced 6 public awareness informative materials, 152 public awareness announcements, 3 podcasts, and 8 field visits (5 targeting JLAC volunteers and 3 students) towards raising public awareness of due human rights and available legal protection measures. Pertaining to violations by the Palestinian Authority, 2 awareness raising workshops and 1 round table discussion were held on commitments to acceded conventions treaties by the PA. Such was in addition to 4 meetings with local councils towards better liaising referral systems/ service delivery.



# Campaign for Retrieving of Remains

"The National Campaign for the Retrieval of War Victims' Remains and the Disclosure of the Fate of Those Missing" (which seeks to end Israel's abhorrent practice of withholding corpses as a form of collective punishment), documented the withholding of 98 victims' remains in 2023, of which 22 corpses were since released by Israeli authorities and 76 remain withheld. The corpses of 6 victims withheld in previous years, were also released, including the corpse of Ashraf Halsa from the town of Sawahreh in Jerusalem, who had been held for nearly two and a half years. Following the resumption of the detention policy in October 2015, Israel has held in its possession the remains of 186 Palestinians, including the 76 apprehended in 2023. Such is in addition to the 256 corpses buried in Israel's various "cemeteries of numbers", bringing the total number of remains withheld by Israel (between the more recent ones held morgue refrigerators and those buried) to of 442. Among them are 17 former prisoners who spent decades in military prisons and whose bodies now are completing their sentence.

Israel is also withholding the remains of 5 deceased Palestinian women and 21 children under the age of 18.

The National Day for the Retrieval of War Victims' Remains was commemorated with a press conference in the city of Nablus, with processions carrying symbolic coffins for the dead and vigils carried out between August 29-27 in cities across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Simultaneous solidarity events were also held in Lebanon and in Sweden, accompanied by social media campaigns disseminating content on the matter. In another symbolic note, following consultative meetings with the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, the name "Aqmār Mish Arqām" (roughly translating to Stars and Not Numbers) was adopted for their summer camps across the country, totaling 62 camps. An event was also held in the city of Nablus in solidarity with families having lost loved ones at the hands of Israeli forces, who now face the additional collective punishment of the demolition of their homes.

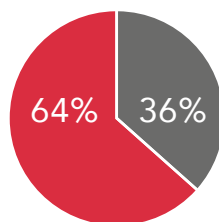


# Financial Review

In 2023, JLAC was able to maintain its exiting funding base and expand its operational budget in line with its policy of controlled growth. The following is a breakdown of JLAC's operational budget by funding type and donor type:

## Funding Type

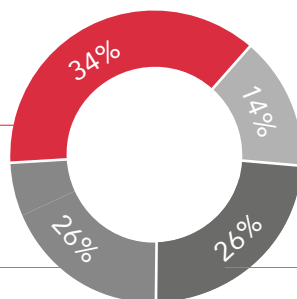
**1,176,935\$**  
Project-Based Fund



**674,541\$**  
Core Funds

## Donor Type

**634,658\$**  
Multilateral Agencies



**265,266\$**  
Faith-Based Organizations

**472,405\$**  
International NGOs

**479,146\$**  
States

## Total Operational Budget

**1,851,476\$**

*Please note that EU funds related to the Consortium for Human Rights in Jerusalem (a coalition of four institutions that is led by JLAC), are also reflected in the budget.*