

Data Sheet, February 2017

LAW ENFORCEMENT ON ISRAELI CIVILIANS IN THE WEST BANK

Yesh Din Monitoring Update 2005-2016

According to Yesh Din's data:

- Between 2013 and 2016, indictments were served in only 8.2% of the investigation files monitored by Yesh Din concerning ideologically motivated crime by Israeli civilians in the West Bank.
- The establishment of the Nationalistic Crime Unit in 2013 has not resulted in a significant change in the rate of indictments served.
- The police has failed in the investigation of approx. 81% of ideologically motivated crime cases concerning property offenses and approx. 77% of the cases concerning violent offenses in the West Bank since 2013.
- About a third of Palestinian victims of ideologically motivated crime by Israelis choose not to file a complaint with the Israel Police.

A. BACKGROUND

Yesh Din publishes an annual data sheet presenting updated findings on the results of investigations by the Israel Police into offenses committed by Israeli civilians - settlers and others - against Palestinians in the West Bank.

This ongoing monitoring of police investigations into ideologically motivated crime by Israeli civilians in the West Bank forms the core of a long-term project implemented by Yesh Din with the goal of assessing the degree to which Israel complies with its obligation to protect residents of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and their property; identifying flaws in the fulfillment of this obligation and taking action to have them remedied. To this end, members of Yesh Din document incidents in which Israeli civilians harm Palestinian residents of the West Bank, and assist victims who wish to do so submit complaints to the Israel Police.

After a police investigation is launched by one of the units of the Samaria & Judea (SJ) District Police (the Israel Police district for the West Bank) - the Hebron Area, Samaria Area, Binyamin Station and the Nationalistic Crime Unit at the SJ Central Unit - Yesh Din's legal team monitors its progress and outcomes until the conclusion of legal proceedings, if there are such. When cases are closed without charges brought against suspects, the legal team reviews the investigation material, and when it believes the investigation was not exhaustive, or that the evidence was sufficient for serving an indictment, it appeals the decision to close the file.¹

From its establishment in 2005 to the end of 2016,² Yesh Din has monitored 1,174 SJ District Police investigation files, both concluded and ongoing, which were opened following complaints filed by Palestinians, some with Yesh Din's assistance. Of these, 48 files are still at various stages of processing by investigation and prosecution bodies. Yesh Din's communications to the police regarding four additional investigation files have yet to receive a response. The remaining investigation files were concluded, with or without an indictment.

¹ Article 64 of the Criminal Procedure Law establishes that "the complainant is entitled to appeal against the decision not to investigate or not to prosecute on the grounds that there is no public interest in investigation or trial, insufficient evidence was found, or the determination that there is no culpability." **Criminal Procedure Law [Consolidated Version]** 5742-1982, Sec. 64.

² Unless otherwise stated, the data presented in this document relates to information Yesh Din had on police investigations it monitors on January 3, 2017.

This document focuses on data collected by Yesh Din with respect to police investigations opened since 2013, the year in which the SJ Police District Nationalistic Crime Unit was established for the express purpose of improving law enforcement responses to ideologically motivated crime in the West Bank and elsewhere. During this time, Yesh Din monitored 289 Israel Police investigations into ideologically motivated crime.

SAMPLE FEATURES

For the past 11 years, Yesh Din has been monitoring incidents in which Israeli civilians committed crimes against Palestinians and their property. This type of crime usually takes place in areas where there is a struggle over land. Therefore, although the offenses are perpetrated by private individuals, the end result is systemic criminal activity meant to terrorize Palestinians in order to drive them off their lands, and help expand the settlement enterprise.³ Ideologically motivated crime adds to the restrictions the military regime imposes on Palestinians in the West Bank, and contributes to their dispossession.

This document does not cover all incidents of ideologically motivated crime that took place in the OPT during the relevant time period, nor all incidents documented by Yesh Din during this time, as **its purpose is not documentation of all offenses committed and recorded, but rather the police investigations opened as a result.** Palestinian victims of crime perpetrated by Israelis often choose not to file a complaint with the Israel Police, in which cases the police tends not to investigate the offense.

It is also important to note that the data presented in this document is not a summary of the outcomes of all investigations opened during the relevant time period into crime committed by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank, but rather, only the results of investigations monitored by Yesh Din. However, the data does constitute a broad, cumulative sample that offers an indication as to how the Israel Police responds to this type of crime. Section D in this data sheet presents information Yesh Din obtained from the Israel Police regarding the investigation of ideologically motivated crime by the SJ Police District in 2015. It shows that Yesh Din's figures on the rate of prosecution for such offenses are similar to those of the police.

Finally, it is important to note that the sample data refers to investigations in which law enforcement agencies benefit from assistance by Yesh Din, which functions as a mediating and liaising body between the police and the Palestinian complainants, and in many cases even helps to advance the investigation by bringing witnesses and relevant documents to the investigating units, insofar as these are required by the investigative and prosecuting bodies processing the complaints.

B. INVESTIGATION FILES BY TYPE OF OFFENSE

Investigations monitored by Yesh Din are divided into four main types of offenses: violent offenses, property offenses, seizure of Palestinian land and a separate category for all other offenses.

Of the total 289 investigation files monitored by Yesh Din from 2013 to 2016, 136 files (approx. 47%) involve property offenses. These investigations include offenses such as arson, theft, damage to property, cutting down of trees or damage to agricultural crops, theft of crops, and more.

Of the total 289 files, 97 (approx. 34%) involve violence by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank. Violent incidents include instances of stone throwing, shooting, assault with various instruments, threats of assault and other offenses.

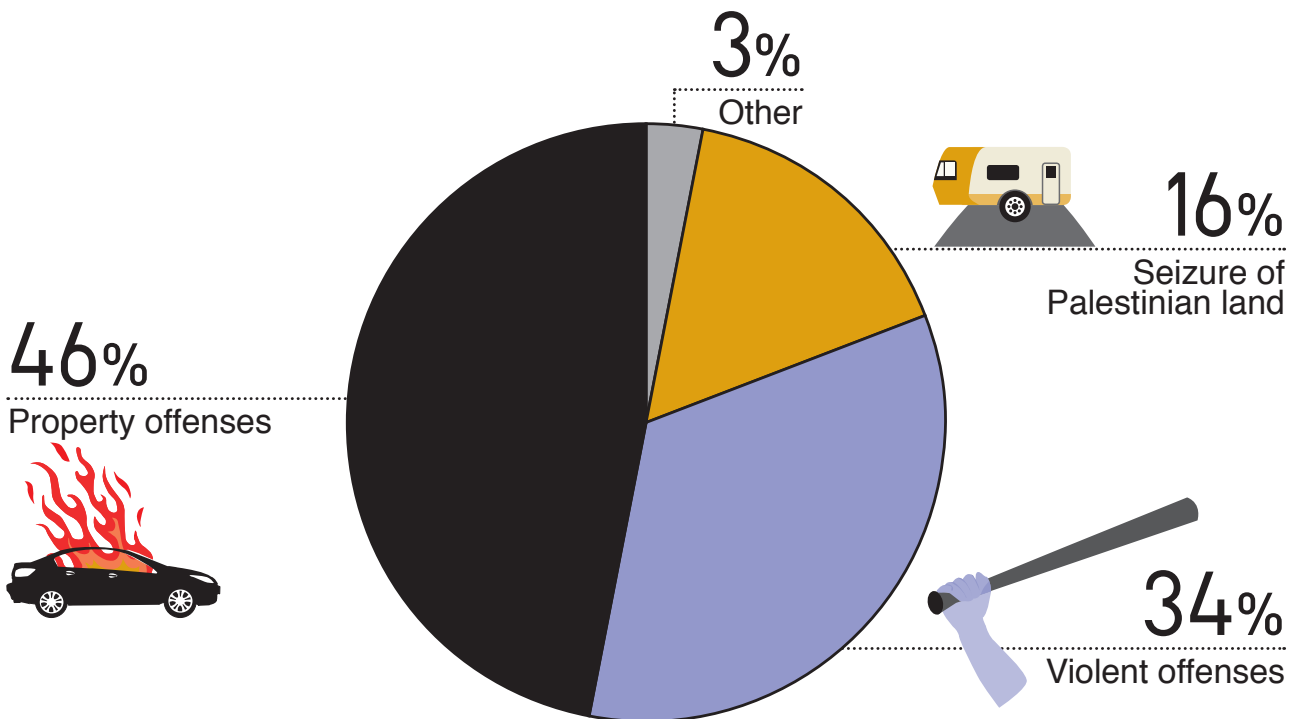
³ In our 2013 report **The Road to Dispossession**, the outpost of Adei-Ad served as a test case to demonstrate the connection between the time and place of criminal offenses and the outpost's rate of expansion, see: Yesh Din, [The Road to Dispossession - A Case Study: The Outpost of Adei-Ad](#), (February 2013).



Of the total number of files, 46 (approx. 16%) were opened following complaints of attempts by Israelis to seize control of Palestinian land by means such as: fencing, unauthorized cultivation, placement of structures, trailers or greenhouses, driving Palestinians away from their plots and denying them access, including harassment and denial of access by settlement security civilian coordinators, and more.

Of the total number of files, 10 (approx. 3%) involve other offenses that do not come under the previous three categories. These include killing or harming farm animals, desecration of mosques, discharging of sewage into Palestinian farmland, dumping of waste on land belonging to Palestinians, and other offenses.

Investigation files by type of offense, 2013-2016



The data regarding the breakdown of investigation files by type of offense over the past four years is similar to data on all 1,174 investigation files monitored by Yesh Din since its establishment. Some 45.7% of all investigation files opened during this time frame relate to offenses Yesh Din classifies as property offenses, approx. 34.8% concern offenses classified as violent offenses, approx. 14.8% concern seizure of Palestinian land and approx. 4.8% relate to offenses that fall under Yesh Din's 'other' classification.

C. INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES

The Israel Police defines the role of the SJ Police District Nationalistic Crime Unit as responding to: “Criminal acts which include bodily harm or damage to property planned or committed by an individual or a group [...] with the object of influencing a political, ideological or religious issue”.⁴ The unit mostly focuses on the West Bank, but is also tasked with investigating nationalistic crime inside the Green Line.⁵ This document presents data on the outcomes of police investigations monitored by Yesh Din since the establishment of the unit, compared to data regarding all investigations monitored by Yesh Din since 2005.⁶

According to police replies to inquiries made by Yesh Din, the SJ Police District defines “nationalistic crime” broadly, and transfers any offense remotely suspected as connected to nationalistic crime to the unit. This is particularly true for offenses which take place in known friction areas.⁷ However, though all cases monitored by Yesh Din concern ideologically motivated crime, not all of them are investigated by the Nationalistic Crime Unit.

Of the 289 SJ Police District investigation files, concluded and ongoing, opened since 2013 and monitored by Yesh Din, 44 are still at various stages of processing and investigation. Investigation and prosecution bodies have reached a final decision in 245 cases, allowing monitoring of their outcomes:

- **Indictments against the offenders were served in only 20 investigation files opened since 2013** (8.2% of the concluded investigation files).
- **A total of 225 investigation files opened since 2013 have been closed without an indictment** (91.8% of the concluded investigation files).

These figures are similar to Yesh Din figures on all investigation files monitored since 2005. A final decision has been reached by investigation and prosecution bodies in 1,122 of these files, of which, **1,021 were closed without indictments (91% of all concluded investigation files). Indictments were served in 90 investigation files (8% of concluded files).** 11 more files were lost by the SJ District Police and never investigated – despite the fact that Yesh Din holds written confirmation that a complaint was submitted.

4 Letter from the Israel Police Freedom of Information Officer to Yesh Din, March 18, 2014. A similar description was provided to members of parliament by the Minister of Public Security Yitzhak Aharonovitch in Session 31 of the 19th Knesset, held on May 22, 2013.

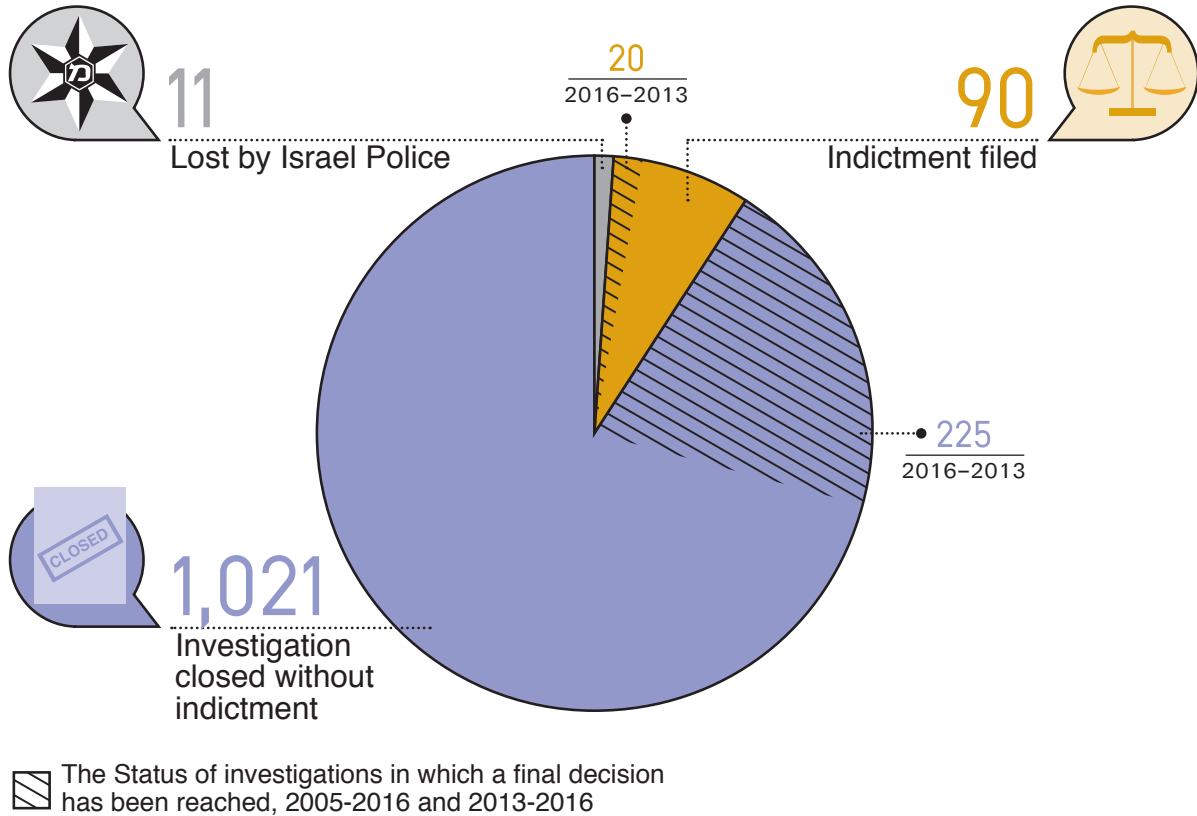
5 Statements of the Minister of Public Security Yitzhak Aharonovitch, Session 31 of the 19th Knesset, held on May 22, 2013. The June 2015 arson at the Church of the Multiplication on the shores of the Sea of Galilee is an example of an incident inside the Green Line that was investigated by the Nationalistic Crime Unit. Noa Shpigel, [“Two Men Indicted for Church of the Loaves and Fishes Arson Attack”](#), *Haaretz Online*, July 29, 2015.

6 Unless otherwise stated, the data presented in this document relates to investigations that deal with offenses committed in the West Bank.

7 This was said to Yesh Din during a meeting with former SJ Police District Commander, Deputy Commissioner Kobi Cohen on August 25, 2013. In response to a question regarding the criteria for transferring files to the Nationalistic Crime Unit at the SJ Police District, the Israel Police freedom of information officer wrote: “As a rule, incidents of nationalistic crime are handled by the SJ Police District Nationalistic Crime Unit. However, every case is individually assessed both as to how it is handled and by which unit”. Letter from the Israel Police Public Complaints Unit Chief Officer to Yesh Din, September 30, 2014.



Status of investigations in which a final decision has been reached, 2005-2016 and 2013-2016



GROUNDINGS FOR CLOSURE OF INVESTIGATION FILES

When an investigation file is closed, the Israel Police is required to notify the complainant of the decision to close the file,⁸ and state the reason for the closure in accordance with the nine grounds stipulated by Police ordinance.⁹ Yesh Din receives the grounds for closure in investigation files it monitors and uses this information as one of the criteria for evaluating and assessing police investigations into offenses committed by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank.

Of the 225 files opened since 2013 and closed without charges laid, the Israel Police provided Yesh Din with the grounds for closure of 223 files:

- **153** files were closed on grounds of “offender unknown,” reflecting the failure of the police to locate and identify suspected offenders, though there is evidence that a criminal offense was committed. To illustrate, these were the grounds cited by the SJ Police District for the closure of the investigation into a March 2014 incident in which an Israeli civilian assaulted a resident of Burin with a stone. The police had photographs taken on the day of the incident, and the victim had given a detailed description of the assailant and identified him in said photographs. Despite this, the assailant and other witnesses who were in the area were never summoned for police questioning, nor asked to give a statement, and the file was

8 **Criminal Procedure Law [Consolidated Version]**, 5742-1982, Sec. 63.

9 The Israel Police Ordinance details nine grounds on which the police prosecutor may order the closure of an investigation file: Absence of guilt, offender unknown, insufficient evidence, lack of public interest, death of the suspect or defendant, obsolescence, the suspect is a minor, the suspect is mentally ill, and another agency has jurisdiction to investigate the case. See the Israel Police Ordinance, **National Headquarters Ordinance 14.01.50: Authority of a Police Prosecutor to Close an Investigation File**.

closed on grounds of “offender unknown” in October 2015, some 18 months after it was opened. Yesh Din appealed the closure.¹⁰

- **23** files were closed on grounds of “insufficient evidence,” also attesting to the fact that an offense had been committed, but the police had failed to collect and consolidate sufficient evidence to prosecute suspects who had been located. These, for instance, were the grounds cited by the police for the closure of an investigation into the assault on a family residing in Khirbet a-Rahwah, southwest of the unauthorized outpost of Mor Farm. Two Israeli civilians assaulted four family members, beating them, and using an iron rod. In their statements to the police, the victims provided the first names of the two assailants, and their descriptions, noting several times they would be able to identify them. The police questioned under caution three people whose names fitted the descriptions, and who lived at the outpost at the time of the incident. Two of them were later marked by the investigators as suspects. Despite this, the investigation was closed on the grounds of “insufficient evidence” without a police line-up for either of the two suspects, and without them being asked by the police to supply an alibi. Yesh Din appealed the decision to close the file.¹¹
- **37** files were closed on grounds of “absence of criminal culpability,” meaning that the police concluded that no criminal offense had been committed or that the suspect that emerged from the investigation had no connection to the offense. At the time of writing, Yesh Din had appealed against 7 of these decisions, based on its conclusion that closure on these grounds was unreasonable.
- **7** files were closed on grounds of “lack of public interest”, one file was closed on grounds of “exemption from criminal liability” (the suspect is a minor), one file was closed on grounds that another agency has jurisdiction over this case, and one file was closed due to obsolescence.

FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED CRIME IN THE WEST BANK

Yesh Din considers the following as investigative failures: files closed on grounds of “offender unknown” and “insufficient evidence”; files originally closed on grounds of “absence of criminal culpability” which Yesh Din appealed and files that were lost by the Israel Police and Yesh Din has confirmation that a police complaint was in fact filed. Given this, **since 2013, the SJ District Police failed in the investigation of 183 cases, which is 75.3% of the 243 concluded investigation files whose outcome is known to Yesh Din.**

A comparison to Yesh Din’s data on the grounds for closure of investigation files it has monitored since 2005 points to a certain drop in the investigative failure rate. **From 2005 to 2016, 82.6% of the concluded investigation files with known outcomes¹² closed on grounds indicating investigative failure:** 662 cases were closed on grounds of “offender unknown”; 219 were closed on grounds of “insufficient evidence”; Yesh Din appealed 32 cases originally closed on grounds of “absence of criminal culpability” and 11 files were lost by the Israel Police. In October 2015, the police investigative failure rate in files monitored by Yesh Din stood at 84.9%.¹³

An examination of the grounds for closure in the time elapsed since 2013, compared to the time elapsed since 2005, shows a drop in the rate of files closed on grounds of “insufficient evidence”. 21.4% of all investigation files monitored by Yesh Din, which concluded without an indictment, were closed on grounds of “insufficient evidence”. By comparison, only 10.2% of the files concluded without indictment since 2013 were closed on these grounds. At the same time, a slight increase in the rate of files closed on grounds of “offender unknown” can be observed in the period from 2013 to 2016. 64.8% of all files monitored

10 Letter from Yesh Din’s legal team to Shomron Area Head of Investigations regarding appeal against decision to close Police Investigation File 147895/14 (Yesh Din Case 3077/14), February 8, 2016. We note the victim in this incident is a Yesh Din staff member.

11 Letter from Yesh Din’s legal team to Hebron Area Head of Investigations regarding appeal against decision to close Police Investigation File 25124/15 (Yesh Din Case 3491/15), March 14, 2016.

12 Processing of 1,118 files monitored by Yesh Din since 2005 has concluded with known outcomes. Yesh Din was not informed of the grounds for closure in 4 investigation files monitored in this time period.

13 Yesh Din, [Data Sheet: Law enforcement on Israeli civilians in the West Bank](#) (October 2015).

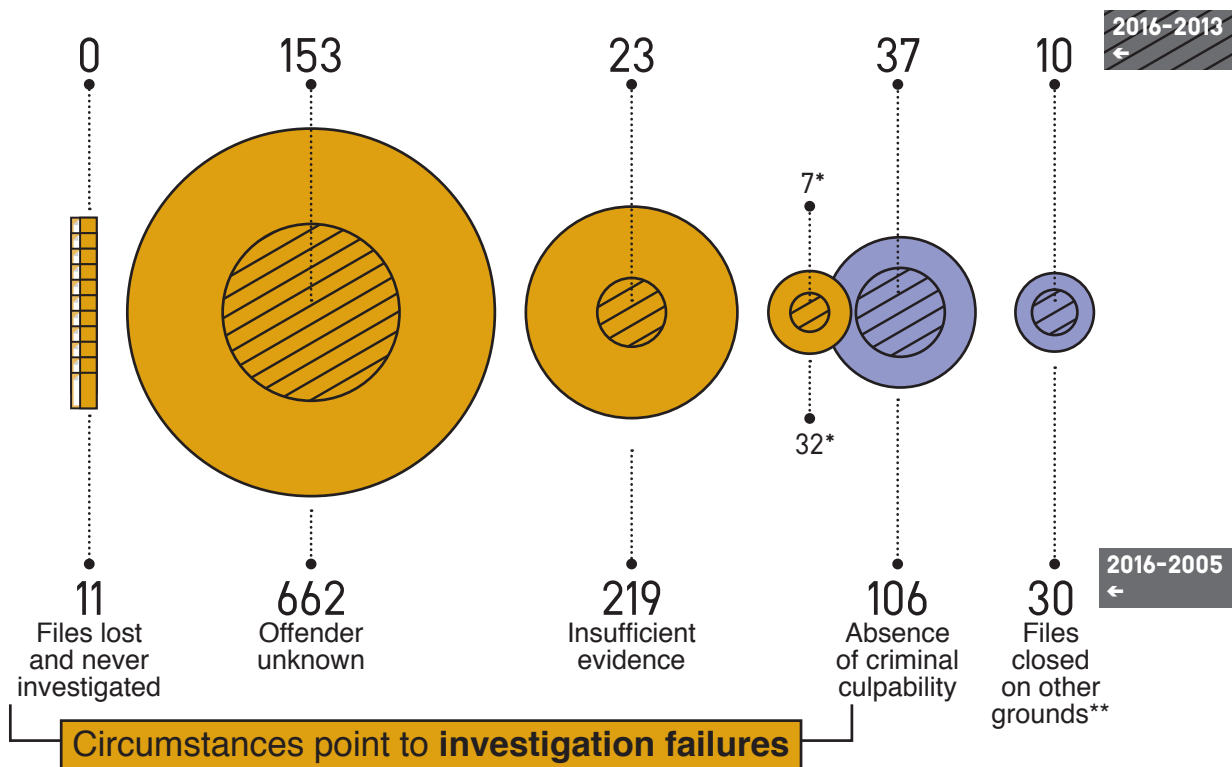


by Yesh Din closed without indictment cited these grounds, compared to 68% of the files closed without indictment since 2013.

A breakdown according to the type of offense shows that **of the concluded files with known outcomes since 2013, the police has failed in the investigation of 81.1% of the files concerning property offenses and 76.9% of the files concerning violent offenses**, (99 of 122 and 60 of 78 files, respectively).

The investigative failure rate with respect to these types of offenses is even higher in files monitored by Yesh Din since 2005. In violent offenses, the police exhibited an 80.6% investigative failure rate (312 of 387 concluded with known outcomes). In property offense cases, the failure rate is 91% (473 files out 520 concluded with known outcomes).

Grounds for closure of investigation files 2005-2016 and 2013-2016



* Appeal filed against decision to close the file on grounds of "absence of criminal culpability".
 ** Files closed on grounds of "lack of public interest," "exemption from criminal liability," "another agency has jurisdiction to investigate the case," and "obsolescence."

WHAT THE DATA MEANS

A certain drop in the police failure rate in investigating crimes committed by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank, observable in the figures for 2013-2016, is far from reflecting any substantive change in the lives of victims of ideologically motivated crime and their communities. The relative number of cases in which charges are laid remains low (indictments were served in only 8.2% of the files opened and concluded since 2013).¹⁴ Correspondingly, the number of investigation files closed without charges continues to surpass 90%, despite the establishment of the Nationalistic Crime Unit, dedicated to handling these serious offenses.

We note that even when charges are laid, there is no guarantee that the suspects would be convicted of the offenses they allegedly committed. A data sheet published by Yesh Din in May 2015 shows that of files monitored by the organization and concluded with indictments by the end of 2014, only a third resulted in a full or partial conviction of the suspects. More than 20% of the legal proceedings were ultimately cancelled or vacated, and approximately a quarter resulted in a judicial decision not to convict the defendants, despite a finding that they did commit the alleged offenses for which they were tried.¹⁵

Finally, we note that in 2016, Israeli law enforcement agencies in the West Bank continued using administrative orders against Israeli civilians, as part of their response to nationalistic crime.¹⁶ These orders, which can be used to restrict personal liberties and the ability to access and remain in certain localities or areas, are described by Israeli law enforcement officials as preventative (rather than punitive) measures which are necessary, partly due to the difficulties in investigating offenses and obtaining sufficient evidence for prosecution. Law enforcement officials see these orders as a legitimate way to reduce the incidence of ideologically motivated crime by Israeli civilians in the West Bank. Yesh Din maintains that use of administrative orders instead of investigation and prosecution is not just another testament to the police failure to address ideologically motivated crime in the West Bank, but it is also a serious human rights violation. Yesh Din believes this is an unacceptable practice which defies the fundamental principles of democracy as it is designed to circumvent the system of checks and balances provided by the criminal proceeding.¹⁷

D. ISRAEL POLICE STATISTICS ON THE RESPONSE TO NATIONALISTIC CRIME IN 2015: LOW RATE OF INDICTMENT WHEN THE VICTIMS ARE PALESTINIANS

Yesh Din contacts the Israel Police every year, requesting statistics on the investigation of offenses classified as nationalistic crime committed by Israeli civilians in the West Bank. The figures provided to Yesh Din regarding investigation files opened in 2015 reveal stark differences between investigation outcomes in cases where the victims of nationalistic crime perpetrated by Israeli civilians are Palestinian, and outcomes in cases in which such crime is not directed at Palestinians. These may include offenses against security forces, public order and safety offenses, and others.¹⁸

14 In July 2013, 8.5% of concluded investigation files monitored by Yesh Din culminated with indictments. In November 2014, the indictment rate was 7.4%, and in October 2015, it was 7.3%, see: Yesh Din, [Data Sheet: law enforcement on Israeli civilians in the West Bank](#) (October 2015); Yesh Din, [Data Sheet: Law enforcement on Israeli civilians in the West Bank](#) (November 2014); Yesh Din, [Data Sheet: Law enforcement on Israeli civilians the West Bank](#) (July 2013).

15 Yesh Din, [Data Sheet: Prosecution of Israeli civilians suspected of harming Palestinians in the West Bank](#) (May 2015).

16 See, for instance, the following reports on restraining orders issued against Israeli civilian in 2016: Avraham Shapira, "[Order signed one day before the investigation](#)", [Hakol Hayehudi](#) (online, in Hebrew), August 7, 2016; "[15-year-old taken from parent's home](#)", [Hakol Hayehudi](#) (online, in Hebrew), June 1, 2016; "[Watch: Order ripped to pieces in front of officers](#)", [Hakol Hayehudi](#) (online, in Hebrew), February 2, 2016. For general comments made by the SJ Police District Commander on the use of administrative orders, see: Efrat Forsher, "[The Judea and Samaria challenge](#)", [Israel Hayom](#) (in Hebrew), October 11, 2016.

17 For more on this issue, see: Yesh Din, [Mock Enforcement: Law enforcement on Israeli civilians in the West Bank](#) (May 2015), pp. 123-135.

18 The figures were provided to Yesh Din on January 12, 2016, in response to a Freedom of Information request made by Yesh Din, and relate to investigation files opened by the SJ Police District in 2015 and processed by it during that year alone. The information provided relates to SJ Police District investigation files classified as: "Offenses with a public disturbance motive by Israelis, and Jewish nationalistic crime." At Yesh Din's request these investigation files were sorted by those classified by the police as having a Palestinian victim, and other files. The Nationalistic Crime Unit at the SJ Central Unit is also tasked with investigating nationalistic crime inside the Green Line. Therefore, it is possible that information received regarding SJ Police investigation files includes files dealing with offenses committed outside of the West Bank.



In 2015, the SJ Police District opened 280 investigation files classified as suspected nationalistic crime by Israeli civilians. Of these, 89 were identified as having Palestinian victims. It follows that the other 191 files related to nationalistic crime did not target Palestinians. At the time the figures were provided, some investigation files had been closed without charges, some were still in processing by investigation and prosecution authorities, and some had resulted in indictments.

55 of the 191 investigation files opened in 2015 into suspected nationalistic crime by Israeli civilians **which did not target Palestinians** concluded that same year with an indictment. In contrast, only four investigation files opened by the SJ Police District in 2015 into suspected nationalistic crime by Israeli civilians against Palestinians or their property concluded that same year with an indictment.

In other words, **only 4.5% of the investigations opened in 2015 into suspected nationalistic crime in which the victim was Palestinian resulted in an indictment within the same year; compared to 28.8% of the investigations in which the suspected nationalistic crime was not directed at a Palestinian victim.** It should be noted that at the time Yesh Din received the figures, some of the files opened in 2015 were still in processing by investigation or prosecution authorities. Among those files, some led to indictment during the past year,¹⁹ and some may lead to indictment later on.

Over the course of 2015, a total of 85 indictments were served in cases of nationalistic crime perpetrated by Israelis and investigated by the SJ Police District. This figure includes indictments served in files opened before 2015. Only 15 of these indictments (17.6%) concern suspected nationalistic crime against a Palestinian victim.

Though the official police statistics relate to responses to nationalistic crime over the course of a single year, they do corroborate and support Yesh Din's data on the state of investigations into ideologically motivated crime by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank. At the same time, juxtaposed against the outcomes of investigations into nationalist crime which does not target a Palestinian victim, these statistics show that the low rate of indictments in these types of offenses is not a question of fate but of policy.

E. PALESTINIANS ARE RELUCTANT TO FILE COMPLAINTS: THE NUMBER OF OFFENSES IS HIGHER THAN THE NUMBER OF INVESTIGATION FILES

Yesh Din documents incidents of ideologically motivated crime against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank both when the victims wish to complain to the Israel Police, and when they prefer not to do so. In recent years, Yesh Din has observed a downtrend in Palestinian victims' inclination toward filing complaints. This downtrend is impacting, among other things, the number of police investigations files which are added every year to be monitored by Yesh Din.

Between 2008 and 2012, the number of new police investigations into offenses perpetrated by Israeli civilians against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank, which were monitored by Yesh Din, averaged more than 11 per month. In contrast, between 2013 and 2016, on a monthly average, Yesh Din documented only 6 new police investigations opened after Palestinians filed complaints of crimes against them by Israeli citizens.

REFRAINING FROM FILING POLICE COMPLAINTS – FIGURES AND REASONS

From early 2013 to mid-October 2016, Yesh Din documented 500 incidents of ideologically motivated crime.²⁰ In 281 of these, the victims filed a police complaint. **In 161 other cases (32.2% of all of ideologically motivated crime incidents documented by Yesh Din during this time period), the victims told Yesh Din staff members they did not wish to**

19 These include the indictment filed in April 2016 against seven defendants, charged with arson, possession of weapons, membership in an unauthorized association, and other offenses targeting Palestinians and their property. Shabtai Bendet, "Sought to strike fear: Seven Jews accused of terrorism against Palestinians", *Walla!* (in Hebrew), April 25, 2016.

20 The figures in this section relate to incidents documented by Yesh Din until October 12, 2016.

file a complaint. In other words, during the relevant time period, in an average of 3.5 incidents per month, victims decided not to file a complaint regarding a crime committed against them or their property.

In 74 of the cases, the victims cited mistrust of Israeli law enforcement agencies as the reason for their reluctance to complain. Some had experienced complaints that had come to naught either first hand or through relatives. In 33 cases, the victims cited fear that filing the complaint would bring harm to themselves or to their families. Some of these victims specifically noted concern that filing a complaint would result in the revocation of their, or a relative's, entry permit to Israel. In 15 cases, the victims had filed a complaint with the District Coordination Office (DCO) or the Palestinian police, but the complaint was never followed with an investigation by the Israel Police.²¹

These reasons indicate that Palestinians' disinclination toward complaining to the police is influenced both by the actual failure of the police to investigate crimes committed by Israelis against Palestinians, and by systemic factors connected to the fact that the system placed to enforce the law on Israeli civilians in the West Bank, including the Israel Police, is not merely a law enforcement system, but part of the apparatus of Israeli control over the West Bank – part of the occupation.

Victims' fear over potentially losing their entry permits to Israel as a result of filing a police complaint is partly a reflection of this situation. It expresses Palestinian victims' perception of the Israel Police as part of the apparatus of Israeli control in the OPT. The cases in which Palestinians have filed a complaint with the Palestinian police or the DCO, with no follow up by the Israel Police, are indicative of the structural issues affecting Israel's system of law enforcement on Israelis in the West Bank, which act as an obstacle for Palestinians wishing to make complaints to the Israel Police.²²

F. THE GEOGRAPHY OF IDEOLOGICALLY MOTIVATED CRIME IN THE WEST BANK

The vast majority of the crimes committed by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank are ideologically motivated acts that aid the efforts made by the settler movement to seize control of West Bank land. Therefore, geographically tracking these offenses holds value.

We note that the map presented here is subject to the limitations imposed by the file sample discussed in this data sheet, as it reflects only cases in which Palestinian crime victims chose to file a police complaint with Yesh Din's assistance. Therefore, while the geographic dispersal that emerges from the data does reflect where crimes took place, it is also influenced by the geographic distribution of Yesh Din's work. For obvious reasons, in areas where the organization is better known, and has worked over the years, more crime victims contact Yesh Din's representatives for assistance after being harmed.

Under the Radar, a report published by Yesh Din in March 2015, highlights the fact that the location of many unauthorized outposts built in the West Bank is selected with the intent of creating geographically contiguous Israeli settlement blocs by connecting isolated settlements to existing larger settlement clusters, fragmenting the West Bank in the process. Yesh Din has mapped out four such settlement blocs.²³ Our monitoring has revealed that in some of these areas, the incidence of ideologically motivated crime against local Palestinian residents appears to be relatively high.

The northern settlement bloc includes unauthorized outposts and settlements situated between Qalqiliya to the west, through the settlements of Itamar and Elon Moreh, to the Jordan Valley in the east. Since 2013, Yesh Din has documented 88 investigation files into offenses committed in and around this area, targeting local Palestinian residents. In 29 of these files, the offenses were committed in the area between the settlements of Karnei Shomron and Kedumim and the outposts of Elmatan,

21 Palestinian DCO officials are tasked with transferring complaints they receive to the Israel Police delegates at the Israeli DCOs.

22 For more on why Palestinian crime victims choose not to file complaints with the Israel Police, and other systemic issues affecting law enforcement on Israelis in the West Bank see: Yesh Din, [Mock Enforcement: Law enforcement on Israeli civilians in the West Bank](#) (May 2015), pp. 97-122; Yesh Din, [Avoiding complaining to police: facts and figures on Palestinian victims of offenses who decide not to file complaints with the police](#) (August 2016).

23 Yesh Din, [Under the Radar: Israel's silent policy of transforming illegal outposts into official settlements](#), (March 2015), pp. 34-38.



Ramat Gilad and Gilad Farm.²⁴ 50 more files relate to offenses committed near the settlement of Yitzhar and the unauthorized outposts around it.²⁵

A total of 71 of the files monitored by Yesh Din during this time concern crime which took place near another settlement bloc which includes settlements and outposts near the Shilo Valley area and stretches eastward toward the settlement of Ariel. 68 of the offenses committed against Palestinians living in this area occurred near the Shilo Valley or near the settlement of Kfar Tapuah, an area with a relatively high density of unauthorized outposts.²⁶ The location of the offenses indicates a connection between the presence of unauthorized outposts and ideologically motivated crime against local Palestinian residents.

Yesh Din has documented fewer incidents of ideologically motivated crime in the central West Bank, around the bloc of settlements and outposts located east of Ramallah, which includes Ofra, Kochav Ya'akov, Ma'ale Mikhmas, Kochav Hashachar, and the adjacent outposts. Of the files monitored by Yesh Din since 2013, 22 relate to offenses against local Palestinian residents in and around this area.²⁷ 12 more files concern offenses which took place near a group of settlements and outposts west of Ramallah, including Nahaliel, Talmon and adjacent outposts.²⁸

In the southern West Bank, another contiguous settlement bloc stretches from the Gush Etzion area to the settlement of Tko'a and the unauthorized outposts nearby. 30 of the investigation files monitored by Yesh Din during this time relate to offenses committed in this area against Palestinians living in and around it.²⁹ Yesh Din has also monitored 21 investigation files concerning offenses committed around the Israeli settlements in the City of Hebron and Kiryat Arba, and 25 more files in the South Hebron Hills. 20 other files were documented in other locations throughout the West Bank.

24 In this area, for instance, Yesh Din documented harm to residents of the Palestinian communities of Immatin, Jit, Far'ata, Kafr Laqif and Kafr Thulth.

25 In this area, for instance, Yesh Din documented harm to residents of the Palestinian communities of Burin, Huwarah and Urif.

26 In these areas, for instance, Yesh Din documented harm to residents the Palestinian communities of al-Mughayir, a-Sawiyah, Yasuf, Yatma, Sinjil, Qusrah, Qaryut and Turmusaya.

27 In this area, for instance, Yesh Din documented harm to residents of the Palestinian communities of Mikhmas, a-Taybah, Dura al-Qar' and Kafr Malik. In Under the Radar, Yesh Din did not list the settlements of Kochav Hashachar and Rimonim, and their satellite outposts in the settlement bloc that includes Ofra and Ma'ale Mikhmas. After its publication, it was reported that the Civil Administration Supreme Planning Council had approved the advancement of a regional masterplan covering the settlements of Ma'ale Mikhmas, Rimonim, Kochav Hashachar and Tel Zion, as well as the area south of Ofra. Chaim Levinson, "Israel Moves to Green Light 2,200 New Settlement Units, Recognizes Outposts", **Haaretz**, November 9, 2015.

28 In this area, Yesh Din documented harm to residents of the Palestinian communities of al-Mazra'ah al-Qibliyah, Beitillu and Ras Karkar

29 In this area, for instance, Yesh Din documented harm to residents of the Palestinian communities of al-Khadr, Husan and al-Jab'a.



Settlement blocs and investigation files concerning ideologically motivated crime in the West Bank, 2013-2016

- Separation Wall Route
- Area A
- Area B
- Area C
- ▨ Settlement Bloc
- Investigation Files (289 files)
- Palestinian Communities
- Israeli Settlements



* Indication of the settlement blocs is for illustration only.
 ** Number of opened investigation files is indicated by the victim's place of residence and not by the place where offense took place, except for cases where a Palestinian village name was not mentioned.