



DATA SHEET, OCTOBER 2011

Police investigation of vandalization of Palestinian trees in the West Bank

Yesh Din Monitoring, 2005-2011

A

Data summary

Since 2005 Yesh Din has been monitoring the Samaria and Judea (SJ, West Bank) district police investigation of 127 separate incidents of vandalization of Palestinians' trees in the Occupied Territories (OT). The number of trees and saplings damaged in cases that the organization has been tracking since 2005 is estimated to be some 9,500. In many cases the vandalism is directed against olive trees but other kinds of trees are also harmed, including almond and lemon. Along with the data summary, this sheet details each of the incidents and the results of its investigation.

Our review of the investigation status of each of the 127 aforementioned incidents shows that only a single investigation has so far led to filing an indictment against a person suspected of involvement in vandalism against Palestinians' trees.¹

Yesh Din does not claim to document all of the offenses committed by Israeli civilians against Palestinians and their property in the OT (including vandalization of trees) but the investigation files monitored by Yesh Din constitute a very broad sample of the total investigations conducted by the Judea and Samaria (West Bank) district of the Israel Police into ideologically-motivated offenses by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank.² Yesh Din's monitoring shows that the number of police investigations that yield indictments against suspected perpetrators of vandalism of trees belonging to Palestinians is negligible compared to the number of such incidents whose investigation ends in failure.

The SJ District Police's failure to properly investigate incidents of tree vandalism over the years is merely one aspect of its general failure to enforce the law regarding the broader phenomenon of ideological crimes committed by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the OT. Yesh Din's ongoing research over the past several years reveals that over 90 percent of complaints filed by Palestinians result in investigations being

closed on grounds of "lack of evidence" or "unknown perpetrator" – grounds for closure which indicate a failure on the part of the investigators. As long as the Israeli government refrains from taking necessary actions to strengthen law enforcement against those among the Israelis in the OT who injure Palestinians and their property, it is shirking its duty to protect the civilian population living under its military occupation.

B Investigation of tree vandalization incidents, 2005-2011

Of the **127** investigation files into vandalization of Palestinian trees that Yesh Din has been monitoring:

- **One** investigation resulted in an indictment served against a suspect.³
- **113** investigation files closed. Of those:
 - **Three** investigation files were closed on grounds of "no criminal culpability".
 - **96** investigation files were closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator."
 - **12** were closed on grounds of insufficient evidence to prosecute.
 - In **two** cases Yesh Din was not informed of the grounds for the decision to close the file.
- **10** cases are still under investigation
- The investigation of **three** incidents ended and the file were transferred to a prosecutor's review⁴ to decide its result: whether to close it or file an indictment.

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1. Following one incident involving stone throwing at a Palestinian family's house in Hebron and setting fire to a tree in the house's garden, an indictment was filed against a defendant (and even then only following an appeal by Yesh Din against the initial decision to close the file without filing an indictment against the suspect). However, in that case the arson was a part of the assault incident and therefore the incident is not included in the figures presented here. Likewise, with the intention of concentrating in this document solely on data about the vandalization of trees, we do not include here figures about incidents of attacks on harvesters during the harvest, theft of fruit from trees or vandalism of wheat fields.
 2. For figures on Yesh Din's ongoing monitoring of police investigations into offenses by Israeli civilians against Palestinians in the West Bank, see *Yesh Din's Monitoring Update, 2005-2010* datasheet (February 2011) and Yesh Din reports *A Semblance of Law: Law Enforcement Against Israeli Civilians in the West Bank* (pp. 89-95) and *Too Little, Too Late: the State Attorney's Supervision of Police Investigations into Israeli Civilians' Offenses against Palestinians* (pp. 16-21).
 3. The indictment was filed in criminal case number 1579/07 of the Binyamin Police (Yesh Din case no. 1280/07). On June 17, 2007, MM, a resident of the village of Karyut, discovered that around 300 olive, apricot and almond trees had been uprooted and stolen from his land. MM filed a complaint with the Binyamin Police on the very same day. On October 22, 2007, some four months later, the investigation file was transferred for review by a prosecutor from the Samaria and Judea (SJ) District Police Prosecution Unit. Yesh Din's legal team sent repeated reminders to the Prosecution Unit regarding the case. On April 26, 2011, the same unit informed Yesh Din that a draft indictment had been prepared and a decision regarding its filing would likely be made "shortly". Only on August 17, 2011, more than four years after the incident, did the Prosecution Unit inform Yesh Din that an indictment was filed in the case. According to the Unit, an indictment was filed alleging the crimes of trespass, theft, and damage to property, and as of October 11, 2011, no court hearing had yet been scheduled in the case.
 4. Of these, one case was submitted to the review of a prosecutor of the Jerusalem District Attorney office and two files are under prosecutor's review at the Police prosecution unit.

Yesh Din monitoring of investigation files into the vandalization of trees 2005-2011

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
1.	2468/11	August 15, 2011	Mikhmas	Branches of 55 trees were vandalized	Under investigation
2.	2460/11	August 6, 2011	Deir Dibuan	Some 100 olive trees vandlized and uprooted	Under investigation
3.	2467/11	August 3, 2011	Jitt	At least two olive trees vandalized	Under review of a prosecutor of JS district police prosecution unit
4.	2445/11	July 3, 2011	Asira al-Qibliya	15 olive trees vandalized and uprooted	Under investigation
5.	2439/11	June 18, 2011	Khalat Sakharia	Vines were cut down and uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
6.	2417/11	May 26, 2011	Beit Umar	20 vines and 20 olive trees were cut down	Under investigation
7.	2406/11	May 22, 2011	Kafr Qadum	Some 70 olive trees were cut down and outrooted, 20 of these were stolen	Under investigation
8.	2401/11	May 11, 2011	Al-Tawani	12 olive trees were cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
9.	2395/11	May 3, 2011	Al-Tawani	a tree cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
10.	2396/11	April 30, 2011	Burin	Branches of 11 olive trees were vandalized	Under investigation

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
11.	2386/11	April 13, 2011	Anata	18 trees were cut down	Under investigation
12.	2364/11	March 10, 2011	Kafr Qadum	82 trees were cut down; 10 olive saplings uprooted and stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
13.	2347/11	March 3, 2011	Al-Tuani	4 olive trees were cut down	File closed on grounds of "no criminal culpability"
14.	2339/11	March 3, 2011	Qusra	36 olive saplings were vandalized and stolen	Under investigation
15.	2345/11	March 1, 2011	8 olive trees and 2 fig trees uprooted	Yassuf	under investigation
16.	2328/11	February 20, 2011	Duma (Nablus)	82 olive trees uprooted, vandalized and stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
17.	2326/11	February 20, 2011	Duma (Nablus)	270 olive saplings uprooted and stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
18.	2292/11	January 7, 2011	Qusra	Some 100 olive saplings uprooted and stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
19.	2283/11	December 27, 2010	Madama	4 trees uprooted and some 40 trees vandalized	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
20.	2274/10	December 17, 2010	Til	2 peach trees, 1 apricot tree and 2 vines uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
21.	2273/10	December 2, 2010	Anata	Olive and other fruit trees uprooted	Under investigation
22.	2261/10	November 16, 2010	Jitt	30 saplings uprooted	File closed on grounds of “no criminal culpability”
23.	2269/10	November 1, 2010	Kafr Qadum	Some 30 olive trees vandalized and 15 sacks of harvested olives stolen	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
24.	2272/10	October 28, 2010	Kafr Qadum	Olive trees were vandalized and harvest of some 50 trees stolen	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
25.	2250/10	October 21, 2010	Lubban al-Sharqiya	14 olive trees were cut down	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
26.	2245/10	October 10, 2010	Fur’ata	Olive trees vandalized and their fruit stolen	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
27.	2233/10	October 8, 2010	Turmusayya	Some 40 olive trees were cut down	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
28.	2231/10	October 7, 2010	Kafr Qadum	some 50 olive trees vandalized and their fruit stolen	Under review of a prosecutor of JS district police prosecution unit
29.	2238/10	October 4, 2010	Howwara	53 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
30.	2242/10	October 2, 2010	Lubban al-Sharqiya	24 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
31.	2218/10	September 20, 2010	Hebron	45 vines vandalized	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
32.	2206/10	August 31, 2010	Burin	17 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
33.	2190/10	July 29, 2010	Umm al-Kheir	2 almond trees were cut down and 300 tomatoes and okra seedlings were uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
34.	2170/10	May 27, 2010	Kaft Thulth	8 olive saplings uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
35.	2148/10	May 24, 2010	Amatin	13 olive and one almond tree set on fire	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
36.	2121/10	April 30, 2010	Qadum	36 olive trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
37.	2120/10	April 27, 2010	Mikhmas	10 olive trees set on fire	File closed on grounds unknown to Yesh Din
38.	2117/10	April 25, 2010	Halhoul	250 vine seedlings uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
39.	2112/10	April 19, 2010	Qaryut	119 olive saplings uprooted and stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
40.	2113/10	April 11, 2010	Umm al-Kheir	2 almond and one olive tree uprooted	File closed on grounds unknown to Yesh Din
41.	2109/10	April 12, 2010	Mikhmas	50 olive and other trees uprooted and vandalized	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
42.	2087/10	March 23, 2010	Qaryut	38 olive saplings uprooted and stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
43.	2080/10	March 18, 2010	Qaryut	4 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
44.	2085/10	March 18, 2010	Deir Nidham	21 olive and 40 almond trees uprooted, 15 almond trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
45.	2061/10	March 14, 2010	Inbous	Several olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
46.	2058/10	March 11, 2002	Qaryut	17 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
47.	2033/10	February 23, 2010	Burin	32 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
48.	2039/10	February 13, 2010	Qawawis	115 olive trees vandalized: some were uprooted and the branches of others were cut off	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
49.	2029/10	February 11, 2010	Burin	Several olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
50.	2023/10	January 23, 2010	Hebron	At least 50 vines cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
51.	1986/10	January 13, 2010	Al-Tawani	The branches of 60 olive trees were vandalized	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
52.	1982/10	January 10, 2010	Deir Nidham	150 olive trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
53.	1974/10	January 1, 2010	Deir Nidham	130 olive saplings uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
54.	1968/09	December 19, 2009	Deir Nidham	At least 17 olive saplings uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
55.	1966/09	December 13, 2009	Al-Mughayer	270 olive trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
56.	1959/09	December 4, 2009	Umm Salmona	37 olive saplings uprooted and set on fire	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
57.	1950/09	November 11, 2009	Burin	At least 81 olive trees sawed down and vandalized	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
58.	1921/09	October 29, 2009	Burin	Some 50 45-year-old olive trees were cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
59.	1936/09	October 27, 2009	Turmusayya	The branches of 135 olive trees were vandalized	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
60.	1946/10	October 25, 2009	Lubban al-Sharqiya	5 almond trees were cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
61.	1925/09	October 20, 2009	Al-Mughayer	47 olive trees were cut down	File closed on grounds of "lack of evidence"
62.	1916/09	October 4, 2009	Al-Mughayer	At least 50 trees were sprayed with poisonous substance	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
63.	1914/09	September 21, 2009	Mikhmas	69 young olive trees, aged 4 years, were trampled	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
64.	1913/09	September 21, 2009	Mikhmas	The branches of 21 olive trees, aged 29 years, were vandalized and the olives from tens of trees were harvested and stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
65.	1909/09	September 20, 2009	Burin	17 olive trees sawed	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
66.	1907/09	September 16, 2009	Einabus	12 fig trees and 40 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
67.	1915/09	September 7, 2009	Al-Mughayer	60 young olive trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
68.	1891/09	September 5, 2009	Deir Nidham	10 ten-year-old lemon trees and the branches of 15 42-year-old lemon trees cut off	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
69.	1890/09	September 4, 2009	Al-Mughayer and Turmusayya	300 olive trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of "lack of evidence"
70.	1882/09	August 10, 2009	Al-Mughayer	150 saplings uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
71.	1872/09	August 1, 2009	Kafr Thulth	Olive trees uprooted and well cover smashed	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
72.	1867/09	July 20, 2009	Burin	Olive grove set on fire in Burin, damaging 45 olive trees and another 22 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
73.	1870/09	July 1, 2009	Fur'ata	10 young olive trees and three almond trees uprooted and branches of two olive trees broken	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
74.	1865/09	June 1, 2009	Burin	67 olive trees burned in two plots	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
75.	1841/09	June 1, 2009	Burin	Branches of 106 olive trees vandalized	File closed on grounds of "lack of evidence"
76.	1811/09	May 14, 2009	Kafr Thulth	Eight young olive trees vandalized	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
77.	1817/09	May 10, 2009	Fur'ata	40 57-year-old olive trees uprooted and stolen	Under investigation
78.	1827/09	May 4, 2009	Turmusayya	27 olive trees uprooted and stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
79.	1821/09	May 1, 2009	Sinjil	More than 200 olive saplings were uprooted and replanted in another plot that was fenced off	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
80.	1790/09	April 13, 2009	Kafr Qadum	Two seven-year-old olive trees and six almond trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
81.	1793/09	March 23, 2009	Al-Khadr	20 18-year-old olive trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
82.	1808/09	March 1, 2009	Sinjil	16 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
83.	1750/09	February 18, 2009	Jinsafut	117 tree saplings uprooted and stolen	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
84.	1725/09	February 7, 2009	Al-Bira	35 small olive saplings and 55 saplings of barren trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of “lack of evidence”
85.	1715/09	January 27, 2009	Kafr Thulth	30 saplings of one-year-old olive trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of “lack of evidence”
86.	1722/09	January 26, 2009	Al-Dhahiriya	Breaking the branches of seven olive trees	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
87.	1677/08	December 2, 2008	Ras Karkar	14 olive trees cut down and 49 vandalized on land belonging to two residents of the village of Ras Karkar	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
88.	1671/08	December 2, 2008	Ras Karkar	47 trees cut down from the land of a village resident	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
89.	1624/08	October 12, 2008	Turmusayya	40 olive, fig and almond trees uprooted.	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
90.	1606/08	September 18, 2008	Fur'ata	18 dunams planted with olive trees set on fire and burned	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”
91.	1464/08	August 1, 2008	Deir Istiya	13 olive trees uprooted and agricultural equipment stolen.	File closed on grounds of “unknown perpetrator”

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
92.	1536/08	July 21, 2008	Amatin	50 olive trees burned in arson of field	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
93.	1454/08	April 15, 2008	Jitt	1000 olive saplings uprooted and stolen from the land of a village resident	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
94.	1459/08	April 8, 2008	Madama	Olive saplings uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
95.	1433/08	March 15, 2008	Turmusayya	133 olive saplings uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
96.	1386/08	February 3, 2008	Jitt	200 olive saplings uprooted and stolen from the land of the village of Jitt	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
97.	1389/08	January 17, 2008	Al-Mughayer	100 olive saplings and 76 fig saplings uprooted and stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
98.	1364/07	December 6, 2007	Susiya	32 olive trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
99.	1280/07	June 17, 2007	Karyut	300 olive trees belonging to a resident of the village were uprooted and stolen	Indictment served
100.	1278/07	June 6, 2007	Salfit	About 100 olive and almond trees damaged in arson of field	File closed on grounds of "lack of evidence"

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
101.	1267/07	May 9, 2007	Lubban al-Sharqiya	15 olive trees uprooted and olive saplings trampled	Under review of a prosecutor of Jerusalem District Attorney Office
102.	1262/07	May 6, 2007	Jitt	370 saplings of olive trees uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
103.	1316/07	September 10, 2006	Jitt	61 olive and fruit trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
104.	1207/06	August 21, 2006	Sinjl	About 40 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
105.	1206/06	June 22, 2006	Sinjl	More than 100 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
106.	1192/06	June 10, 2006	Salem	45 olive trees cut down	File closed on grounds of "lack of evidence"
107.	1171/06	March 13, 2006	Al-Sawiya	Olive tree uprooted and stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
108.	1155/06	February 20, 2006	Kafr Thulth	2 olive tree saplings stolen	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
109.	1142/06	January 9, 2006	Burin	At least 110 olive trees were cut down on the land of the village of Burin.	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
110.	1140/06	January 6, 2006	Al-Tawani	120 olive trees were cut down in the land of Al-Tawani in the southern Hebron Mountain.	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
111.	1139/06	January 2, 2006	Sinjil	60 trees were uprooted from the land of a resident of Sinjil: 30 olive trees, 20 almond trees and 10 fig trees	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
112.	1130/05	December 24, 2005	Burin	100 olive trees were cut down in Burin in the Nablus area.	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
113.	1128/05	December 14, 2005	Al-Sawiya	An olive tree was uprooted and stolen.	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
114.	1121/05	November 27, 2005	Salem	250 olive trees cut down on the land of Salem.	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
115.	1122/05	November 2, 2005	Bil'in	An illegal road was opened in the land of the village of Bil'in on the route of the separation fence. During the road works 190 olive trees were uprooted and stolen.	File closed on grounds of "lack of evidence"

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116.	1101/05	October 16, 2005	Salem	An area of 300 dunams mainly of olive trees was set on fire on the land of the village Salem. More than 200 other olive trees were cut down.	File closed on grounds of "lack of evidence"
117.	1111/05	October 15, 2005	Iskaka	Some 50 olive trees were stolen from the land of the village of Iskaka.	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
118.	1095/05	October 5, 2005	Kafr a-Dik	20-25 olive trees were uprooted and stolen.	File closed on grounds of "lack of evidence"
119.	1077/05	September 20, 2005	Fur'ata	More than 100 olive trees were cut down, uprooted and set on fire.	File closed on grounds of "lack of evidence"
120.	1085/05	September 13, 2005	Kafr Thulth	20 olive and fig trees were vandalized when a bulldozer destroyed a stone fence in the village of Thulth,	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
121.	1050/05	July 24, 2005	Beitillu	11 olive trees were cut down. Vegetable plants were uprooted and agricultural equipment was vandalized.	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
122.	1057/05	July 23, 2005	Salem	200 olive trees sawed and uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"

No.	Yesh Din file no.	Date of incident or discovery	Location	Incident details	Police investigation status
123.	1033/05	June 5, 2005	Asira al-Qibliya	51 trees were cut in the village of Asira al-Qibliya, of which 12 were almond trees and the rest olive trees	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
124.	1022/05	May 19, 2005	Jinsafut	200 olive trees belonging to residents of the village of Jinsafut were cut down	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
125.	1023/05	May 12, 2005	Salem	150 olive trees belonging to residents of the village of Salem were burned.	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
126.	1008/05	April 1, 2005	Kafr Thulth	3 olive trees were cut down and one was uprooted	File closed on grounds of "unknown perpetrator"
127.	1010/05	March 21, 2005	Bil'in	100 olive trees were uprooted from the land of Bil'in. 60 of them were stolen.	File closed on grounds of "lack of evidence"