

East Jerusalem

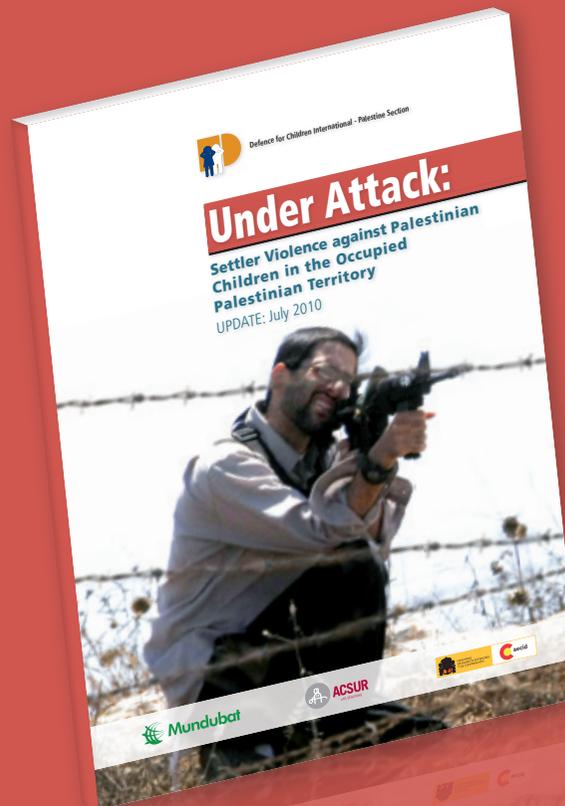
Settlement construction in East Jerusalem is complemented by other governmental policies aimed at expelling Palestinians and increasing the Jewish population in East Jerusalem. Arab Jerusalemites are systematically denied planning and building permits in the city, which in turn facilitates the process of eviction and demolition of houses lacking such permits. Between January 2009 and June 2010, there were 84 house demolitions in East Jerusalem whilst the settler population increased to 195,000.

DCI-Palestine's cases

Between March 2008 and July 2010, DCI-Palestine documented 38 separate incidents of settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. These cases resulted in the death of three Palestinian children and the injury of 45 others. Most of these incidents (55%) occurred in the Hebron Governorate.

Fast Facts

- The settlements are illegal under international law.
- As of 2010, there are approximately 500,000 settlers living illegally in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- The government of Israel has identified the settlements as a National Priority Area. As such, settlements receive a number of economic benefits to ensure the areas remain populated.
- Over 90% of settler violence incidents that are investigated by Israeli authorities are closed without any indictment being filed. Settlers attack Palestinians with impunity.



The full report is available online at www.dci-pal.org

For further information or copies of the report please contact ria@dci-pal.org.



Defence for Children International - Palestine Section



Defence for Children International - Palestine Section

Under Attack:

Settler Violence against Palestinian Children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

UPDATE: July 2010



What is a Settlement?

Settlements are permanent civilian communities established in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where only Israeli citizens or individuals of Jewish descent who can obtain Israeli citizenship can reside.

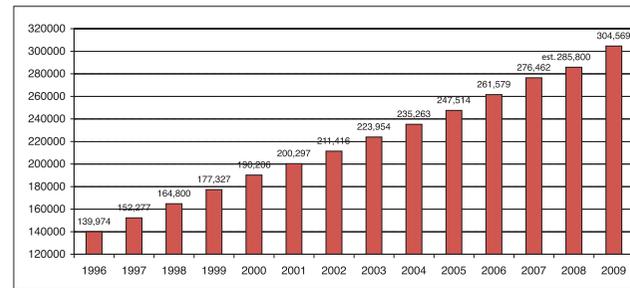
Settlements in the West Bank are generally not open to Palestinians. They have permanent housing units and infrastructure and are self-contained, existing separately from Palestinian neighbourhoods and cities. Some are rural, while others are large urban or industrial areas. It is estimated that the total area of settlements comprises 42.8 per cent of land in the West Bank.



Settlement in the West Bank – Photo credit: GltH

Many settlements have been built on confiscated Palestinian privately-owned land. Settlements are protected by settlement-guards and Israeli forces. Connecting the settlements to Israel is a road system, which is often for the sole benefit of the settlers, or Israeli citizens. The route of the Wall is also determined by the settlements, often straying far from the Green Line into the West Bank so as to incorporate a settlement.

Total settler population in the West Bank excluding East Jerusalem



Source B'Tselem, Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics, Israeli Civil Administration

Settlements and International Law

Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel is prohibited from transferring its civilians to the territory that it is occupying. This rule is designed to prevent illegal colonisation. In its 2004 Advisory Opinion on the Legal Consequences of a Wall, the International Court of Justice declared that “Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) have been established in breach of international law.” In addition, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court states that the transfer of civilian population by the occupying power into the territory it occupies constitutes a war crime. Since 1967, the Israeli government has failed to uphold its obligations under international law by supporting the establishment of settlements and by offering economic incentives to encourage its citizens to settle in them.

Building Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land violates international humanitarian law, international human rights law, UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, and Israel’s own commitments under the Roadmap.

Financial assistance

Illegal settlements in the West Bank enjoy direct and indirect financial support from the Israeli government, Israeli society, and various private donors and charities registered in the United States, all of which enjoy tax exempt status in the United States. This support allows for settlement expansion and the further annexation of Palestinian land, as well as funding violent settler movements, which in some cases have links to terrorist organisations banned in the US.

Settler Violence

Settlers who adhere to extremist ideologies that seek to expel all Palestinians and reclaim the biblical land of Israel are responsible for a number of violent incidents throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. These attacks include acts of verbal harassment, intimidation, physical assaults, and in some cases, killings. Settler violence also encompasses the destruction of Palestinian property, including homes and agricultural land.

Despite their obligations to the protected population of the Occupied Territory, Israeli forces are stationed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, to protect settlers and settlements. Soldiers are often involved in facilitating attacks by settlers, by either participating directly in the assaults, or by turning a blind eye to them.



Israeli settlers tour Hebron escorted by soldiers – Photo credit Brady Ng