

Maintaining Israel's Apartheid: Settlement Enterprise, Collective Punishment, and Arbitrary Detention



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Israel's Colonial Settlement Enterprise: Dispossession of Palestinians

- ▶ In Israel's third UPR, 17 States recommended that Israel halt or dismantle its settlement enterprise in the OPT.
- ▶ **Discriminatory zoning, planning, and permit regime:**

70 per cent of Area C is off-limits to Palestinian construction, whereas 29 per cent is heavily restricted. Therefore, **less than 1 per cent of Area C has been designated for Palestinian development by the Israeli Civil Administration.**

In occupied Jerusalem, **Israel's zoning laws have allocated only 13 percent of the land for Palestinian construction.** Israel assigned 35 percent of the land area for the construction of illegal settlements, while 52 percent of East Jerusalem has been allocated as "green areas" in which construction is prohibited.
- ▶ In 2022, Al-Haq documented the destruction of 254 Palestinian homes under the pretext of lacking a building permit, forcibly displacing 848 Palestinians, including 438 children.

Israel's Colonial Settlement Enterprise: Settler Violence

- ▶ In 2022, Al-Haq documented the killing of five Palestinians, including one child, by Israeli colonial settlers. Since the start of 2023, six Palestinians were killed by Israeli colonial settlers.
- ▶ These attacks have not only been permitted but further encouraged by the IOF – which provide protection to Israeli colonial settlers; Israeli officials – who openly incite for further violence; and the Israeli judiciary – which grants impunity for these attacks.

Israel's Colonial Settlement Enterprise: Recommendations

Therefore, we recommend that Israel:

- ▶ **Comply with its obligation as an Occupying Power by immediately halting the planning, construction and expansion of its illegal settlement enterprise, progressively dismantling all existing settlements and Israeli infrastructures and withdrawing colonial settlers from the OPT.**

Collective Punishment

- ▶ In Israel's third UPR, three States recommended that Israel cease practices of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, which remains a crucial policy in which Israel uses to maintain its settler-colonial apartheid regime.
- ▶ 15-year-long closure and blockade against the Gaza Strip, underlining all aspects of Palestinian life.
- ▶ In 2022, Israel punitively demolished 18 Palestinian homes in the West Bank, resulting in the forced displacement of 79 Palestinians, including 28 children, according to Al-Haq's documentation.
- ▶ As of last month, Israel is withholding **122** Palestinian bodies including the bodies of 12 Palestinian children, and 12 prisoners and detainees, according to JLAC and Addameer.

Collective Punishment: Recommendations

Therefore, we recommend that Israel immediately and unconditionally:

- ▶ **Lift the illegal closure and blockade of the Gaza Strip and end all associated unlawful restrictions imposed on the movement of people and goods that have already made the Gaza Strip uninhabitable;**
- ▶ **Stop punishing the families of deceased Palestinian by withholding their bodies and offer them the treatment of human dignity to which they are entitled;**
- ▶ **Cease all house demolitions in the OPT, regardless of any decision of Israeli courts finding otherwise; and**
- ▶ **Refrain from any other forms of collective punishment against Palestinians.**

Arbitrary Arrests, including Administrative Detention, and Torture

- ▶ In Israel's third UPR, 18 States recommended that Israel halt its arbitrary arrest and detention, including administrative detention, or eliminate its practice of torture and ill-treatment.
- ▶ As of last month, there are 4,780 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, including 29 women, 160 children, and five Legislative Council members.
- ▶ By the end of January 2023, Israel issued 260 administrative detention orders, including 103 new orders and 157 renewals, making the total number of Palestinian administrative detainees, languishing indefinitely in occupation prisons without charge or trial, 916, including one woman, five children, and two Palestinian Legislative Council members.

Arbitrary Arrests, including Administrative Detention, and Torture

Therefore, we recommend that Israel:

- ▶ **End its widespread practice of arbitrary arrest and detention, including administrative detention;**
- ▶ **Respect the principle of the absolute prohibition of torture; and**
- ▶ **End the policy of deliberate medical neglect, and ensure and uphold Palestinian prisoners and detainees' rights to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.**