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COI QUERY RESPONSE

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY – INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION FOR PALESTINIANS FROM THE WEST BANK

The *Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA)* in June 2024 mentioned that: “In July 2023, Israel led a military operation in the West Bank using airstrikes and drones, which killed 16 Palestinians, and injured more than 100.”¹

The *United Nations News Centre* in June 2024 states that: “Linked to the emergency in Gaza, Mr. Türk also warned of the “dramatically deteriorating” situation in the occupied West Bank, amid rising attacks against Palestinians and the targeting of Israeli soldiers. “As of 15 June, 528 Palestinians, 133 of them children, had been killed by Israeli security forces and/or settlers since October, in many cases raising serious concerns of unlawful killings,” Mr. Türk said.” [...]”²

In June 2024 *ACLED (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project)* reported that: “ACLED records over 5,350 violent incidents in the West Bank involving settlers since data collection began in 2016. Over the years, settlers targeted both Palestinians and their properties in various forms. These have ranged from throwing stones at Palestinians, their homes, and cars to setting fire to homes, businesses, farms, and other private properties. Palestinians are also subject to other abuses, which include settlers cutting down olive trees, damaging water infrastructure, and stealing, killing, and driving livestock off using various means, such as drones. Settler violence also includes the beating

¹ Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) (20 June 2024) Education Under Attack 2024: Palestine

² United Nations News Centre (18 June 2024) Gaza: UN rights chief slams 'unconscionable death and suffering'

and, in the most extreme scenarios, shooting and killing of Palestinian civilians. The everyday violence that Palestinians in the West Bank encounter reached new record highs since the 7 October attacks.”³

The *Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Germany)* in June 2024 points out that: “On 30.05.24, one Palestinian was killed and four others wounded during military operations in Ramallah and alBirah. On 01.06.24, two underage Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli military personnel. The circumstances were not fully clarified at first. During a military raid on a wedding in Nablus on 03.06.24, a Palestinian was killed trying to escape. During further raids in Nablus on the same night, two people were killed and nine others wounded in clashes between armed groups and the Israeli military. Those killed were reportedly bystanders. On 03.06.24, three Palestinians were reportedly killed and 13 others wounded during a military raid in Jenin. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank between 07.10.23 and 03.06.24 to 508. A further 5,150 people were reportedly wounded.” [...]”⁴

The *Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)* in June 2024 notes that: “During the reporting period, the Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) and Israeli settlers continue their violence against Palestinians and their properties in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, amounting to crimes and other violations of international law. These crimes have included willful killings, destruction of public and private property, arrests, threats, among others.”⁵

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in May 2024 mentioned that: “Hebron is one of the oldest cities in the West Bank, located in a dry mountainous region known for its vineyards dating back thousands of years. The city is also an epicenter of violence, particularly since the eruption of war in Gaza in October 2023. Since then, 479 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank (including 116 children), the majority by Israeli forces and settlers. The volatile situation, along with the realities of life under occupation, have pushed health care out of reach for many Palestinians living throughout the area.”⁶

The same document states that: “An estimated 61 percent of the West Bank is off-limits to Palestinians. Over 2.9 million Palestinians live in the territory, along with more than 630,000 Israeli settlers living across the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Across the territory, checkpoints, roadblocks, and incursions by the Israeli army and settlers have long cut off towns and villages from each other, blocking Palestinians from accessing basic services including health care and markets to buy food. This has caused residents to run out of water, fuel, and other supplies, and has prevented Palestinians from reaching their schools, work, family, and friends.”⁷

In May 2024 *Human Rights Watch* mentioned that: “Israeli security forces have unlawfully used lethal force in fatal shootings of Palestinians in the West Bank, Human Rights Watch said today, based on documentation of several cases. Research into eight deaths in four incidents between July 2022 and

³ ACLED (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project) (10 June 2024) Civilians or Soldiers? Settler violence in the West Bank, p.3

⁴ Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Germany) (10 June 2024) Briefing Notes 10 June 2024 - Gaza Strip: Current developments; humanitarian situation; West Bank: Several dead and injured

⁵ Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) (5 June 2024) Report on Israel's Crimes and Violations of Palestinians' Rights in the West Bank in May 2024

⁶ Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) (16 February 2024) In the shadow of war: Increased violence and restrictions in the West Bank

⁷ ibid

October 2023 concluded that Israeli forces wrongfully fatally shot or deliberately executed Palestinians who posed no apparent security threat.”⁸

The *Guardian* in April 2024 points out that: “Since 7 October, settler violence across the West Bank has intensified, displacing entire villages for the first time, and the IDF conducts raids on Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad cells as well as local brigades in Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarem on a near-nightly basis. Some 466 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank in the past six months, among them armed fighters, as well as 13 Israelis, including two members of Israel’s security forces”⁹ This article also comments on the: “...rapidly deteriorating situation in the West Bank...”¹⁰

A report issued in April 2024 by *Handicap International - Humanity & Inclusion* states that: “Israeli authorities have heavily restricted the movement of Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. They have blocked most entrances to Palestinian villages and towns, preventing vehicles from entering. Additionally, they have isolated Palestinian cities and towns from main roads by using road gates, earth mounds, concrete roadblocks, and flying checkpoints at major road junctions. These measures, coupled with the large presence of Israeli forces and armed settlers on roads, have severely limited Palestinians’ ability to move around and access services. In many parts of the occupied West Bank, shops are shut, streets are deserted, and communities are cut off, closing businesses and starving parts of the region of economic activity...”¹¹

A report published by *Human Rights Watch* in April 2024 states that: “Israeli settlers have assaulted, tortured, and committed sexual violence against Palestinians, stolen their belongings and livestock, threatened to kill them if they did not leave permanently, and destroyed their homes and schools under the cover of the ongoing hostilities in Gaza”¹² This document also states that: “The UN has recorded more than 700 settler attacks between October 7 and April 3, with soldiers in uniform present in nearly half of the attacks”¹³

In March 2024 a publication released by *Global Protection Cluster* states that: “Israeli use of often unlawful lethal force, including extrajudicial executions, has become a pervasive practice in the West Bank, directly leading to now chronic levels of killings and injuries, committed with almost total impunity, with refugee camps particularly affected”¹⁴

This document also states that: “The period following the 7th of October has further been characterised by an increase in arrests and detentions of Palestinians in the West Bank, accompanied by reports of widespread arbitrary detention, ill-treatment, denial of access to legal counsel and incommunicado detention”¹⁵

⁸ Human Rights Watch (8 May 2024) West Bank: Israeli Forces’ Unlawful Killings of Palestinians

⁹ Guardian (20 April 2024) ‘Nowhere is safe’: Fear and mourning inside the West Bank villages where Israeli settlers went on the rampage, p.2

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ Handicap International - Humanity & Inclusion (18 April 2024) Escalation of violence and impacts on persons with disabilities and persons with injuries in the West Bank, p.2

¹² Human Rights Watch (17 April 2024) West Bank: Israel Responsible for Rising Settler Violence

¹³ *ibid*

¹⁴ Global Protection Cluster (28 March 2024) Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt): West Bank; Protection Analysis Update; March 2024, p.2

¹⁵ *Ibid*, p.4

A report issued in February 2024 by the *United Nations Human Rights Council* states that: “The human rights situation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, was already grave prior to 7 October. In parallel to an increase in settler violence and measures that could facilitate de facto annexation of the West Bank, Israel increased the use of military tactics and weapons in law enforcement operations, leading to a massive increase in the number of Palestinians killed. State and settler violence³ against Palestinians exploded after 7 October, entrenching the long-standing discriminatory system under which Israel exercises control over Palestinians”¹⁶

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¹⁶ United Nations Human Rights Council (13 February 2024) Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, p.2

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