



# BY ISRAELI SETTLERS AND SOLDIERS

OCCUPIED WEST BANK — AREA C

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Compiled from: West Bank Protection Consortium (NRC-led) Report, April 2026 · UN HRC Independent Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/56/26 · OHCHR GBV Special Report, March 2025 · OCHA OPT Humanitarian Situation Updates · Yesh Din Accountability Data

Research Compilation: April 2026

16+

Documented cases of conflict-related sexual violence (WBPC, 2026)

4,765

Palestinians displaced by settler violence since Jan 2023 (OCHA)

38

Entire communities emptied since Oct 7, 2023 (OCHA, 2026)

93.6%

Settler violence investigation files closed without indictment (Yesh Din)

0

Convictions in Sde Teiman sexual abuse case; all charges dropped (March 2026)

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## SECTION 01

## Executive Summary

This report compiles documented cases of sexual violence and gender-based abuse (GBV) perpetrated by Israeli settlers and soldiers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, drawing on four primary source bodies: the West Bank Protection Consortium (WBPC) report *Sexual Violence and Forcible Transfer in the West Bank* (April 2026), the UN Human Rights Council Independent Commission of Inquiry report A/HRC/56/26 and its 2025 supplement on gender-based violence, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) *Occupied Palestinian Territory humanitarian situation updates*, and the Israeli human rights organization Yesh Din's accountability data (2005–2025).<sup>1</sup>

The evidence compiled here establishes that conflict-related sexual violence in the West Bank is not incidental but functions as a systematic instrument of coercive displacement. It operates within a broader architecture of settler expansion, movement restriction, demolitions, and the deliberate cultivation of impunity that enables continued abuse without legal consequence.<sup>2,3</sup>

The escalation since October 7, 2023 is quantifiable and severe. Settler attacks rose from an average of 2.3 per day in 2022 to 8 per day in the weeks immediately following October 7. By 2025, the total of 1,770 documented settler attacks was the highest on record since OCHA began monitoring in 2006. In the first three months of 2026 alone, 1,697 Palestinians were displaced — already surpassing the total for all of 2025.<sup>4,5</sup>

### 16+

documented conflict-related sexual violence cases attributed to settlers/soldiers (WBPC 2026; likely significantly underreported)

### 70%+

of displaced households cited sexual violence threats as primary reason for leaving (WBPC 2026)

### 4,765

Palestinians displaced by settler violence since Jan 2023, across 97 communities (OCHA Feb 2026)

### 38

entire communities emptied since Oct 2023 (OCHA March 2026)

The WBPC report — based on 83 in-depth interviews and 12 focus group discussions across 10 Palestinian communities in Area C — found that sexual violence is "strategically employed to exert pressure on communities, influence decisions regarding the retention or abandonment of their homes and land, and modify everyday routines."<sup>1</sup> When this pressure leaves individuals with no authentic choice but to depart, it constitutes forcible transfer under international law.

1. NRC/WBPC. "Sexual Violence and Forcible Transfer in the West Bank," April 2026. [nrc.no/resources/reports/sexual-violence-and-forcible-transfer-in-the-west-bank](https://nrc.no/resources/reports/sexual-violence-and-forcible-transfer-in-the-west-bank)

2. UN Commission of Inquiry. A/HRC/56/26 and March 2025 supplement. [ohchr.org](https://www.ohchr.org) — *More than a human can bear*, 13 March 2025

3. OCHA OPT. Humanitarian Situation Update #358 (West Bank), February 2026. [ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-358-west-bank](https://ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-358-west-bank)

4. Yesh Din. Data Sheet: Law Enforcement on Israeli Civilians in the West Bank 2005–2025. [yesh-din.org](https://yesh-din.org) — *Data Sheet 2005–2025*

5. OCHA. "Settler violence displaces more Palestinians in 2026 than in all of 2025," March 2026. [un.org/unispal](https://www.un.org/unispal) — *OCHA March 2026*

## SECTION 02

## Legal & Definitional Framework

The documentation compiled in this report is analyzed against multiple layers of international humanitarian law (IHL), international human rights law (IHRL), and international criminal law.

### Applicable Legal Standards

Instrument	Relevant Provisions	Application
Rome Statute (ICC)	Art. 7: rape, sexual slavery, other inhumane acts (crimes against humanity); Art. 8: outrages upon personal dignity, torture (war crimes)	ISF and settler conduct in OPT under ICC jurisdiction; March 2021 ICC Prosecutor ruling
4th Geneva Convention	Art. 27: protected persons treated humanely; Art. 76: detained persons protected from degrading treatment	Palestinian civilians in Area C entitled to full protection; settlers as irregular forces
CEDAW	Art. 2(e): eliminate discrimination by private actors; duty to investigate and prosecute GBV	Israel's failure to investigate settler GBV = state responsibility
UNSC Res. 1325 & 1820	Women, peace and security; sexual violence as a tactic of war	Applies to conflict-related sexual violence as a displacement mechanism
ICJ Advisory Opinion 2024	Serious violations invoke obligations for all states: non-recognition, non-assistance, duty to cooperate	Third-state obligations activated by documented violations in this report

#### Definitional Note: Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

The UN Secretary-General's annual reports on conflict-related sexual violence define it as "rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict." The UN Commission of Inquiry concluded in March 2025 that Israel's conduct meets this definition, finding that "sexual and gender-based violence is increasingly used as a method of war by Israel."<sup>6</sup>

#### Forcible Transfer as a Legal Category

The Rome Statute (Art. 7(1)(d)) criminalizes forcible transfer of population as a crime against humanity. Forcible transfer does not require direct physical removal — it includes creating conditions where departure is coerced. The WBPC report explicitly invokes this standard: "when coercive circumstances leave individuals with no authentic choice but to depart, this constitutes forcible transfer under international law."<sup>1</sup> The ICJ confirmed in its July 2024 advisory opinion that Israel's policies in the OPT raise serious concerns of forcible transfer.

6. OHCHR. "More than a human can bear: Israel's systematic use of sexual, reproductive and other forms of gender-based violence since 7 October," 13 March 2025. [ohchr.org](https://www.ohchr.org) — March 2025 Press Release

## SECTION 03

## Documented Cases — Specific Incidents

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The following cases are drawn from primary source documentation by the WBPC, OHCHR OPT, OCHA, and verified media reporting. The WBPC identified a minimum of 16 cases of conflict-related sexual violence; researchers note actual incidence is significantly higher due to chronic underreporting driven by stigma, fear of retaliation, and lack of legal protection for survivors who report to Israeli authorities.<sup>1</sup>

### Case 01 — Qusai Abu al-Kebash, West Bank Village, ~March 14–15, 2026

Victim: Qusai Abu al-Kebash, 29-year-old shepherd. Perpetrators: Dozens of masked Israeli settlers armed with clubs and knives. Location: Small Palestinian village, occupied West Bank (village under media gag order). Date: Middle of the night, approximately March 14–15, 2026.<sup>7</sup>

During a nighttime raid on the village, settlers cut electricity and disabled security cameras before entering. Abu al-Kebash was forcibly seized, bound at hands and feet, stripped, and subjected to a severe genital assault in which settlers used zip-ties to restrain his genitals and dragged him throughout the village while beating him with sticks. He was left in a fetal position, unable to resist. Six family members required hospitalization; his wife and cousins were physically assaulted and zip-tied. Settlers also threatened to rape women in the community and assaulted children. Hundreds of sheep — the family's livelihood — were stolen. Two foreign witnesses from the International Solidarity Movement corroborated the account in full detail.

Injuries documented: Left eye bruised and swollen; soft tissue injuries; medical reports filed. Legal status: Israeli police confirmed seven suspects detained; investigation initiated. Charges include aggravated indecent assault involving force and threats, assault of a defenseless individual, and racially motivated crime. Case subject to court gag order. Note: No convictions reported as of April 2026.

"I thought they were going to kill me. I felt degraded and insulted. I am sharing my story so the world can understand what is happening." — Qusai Abu al-Kebash, CNN, March 18, 2026.

### Case 02 — Wadi al-Seeq Community, East of Ramallah (WBPC, 2026)

Victim: Palestinian man (identity protected). Perpetrators: Israeli settlers. Location: Wadi al-Seeq community, Area C, Ramallah governorate. Period: Documented in WBPC April 2026 report.<sup>1</sup>

Settlers attempted to sexually assault a blindfolded Palestinian man with a broomstick. The perpetrators subsequently circulated images of the abuse — a pattern the UN Commission identified as characteristic of GBV designed to humiliate not only the individual victim but the Palestinian community as a whole through public dissemination of degrading imagery.

Legal outcome: No investigation, indictment, or accountability mechanism documented.

### Case 03 — Full-Body Strip Search, Female Soldier Perpetrators (WBPC, 2026)

Victim: Palestinian woman (identity protected). Perpetrators: Female Israeli soldiers. Location: Area C, West Bank (specific location withheld for protection). Period: Documented in WBPC April 2026 report.<sup>1</sup>

A Palestinian woman was subjected to a full-body naked inspection by female Israeli soldiers. The examination included derogatory comments and touching of intimate areas. The UN Commission of Inquiry documented this pattern — forced stripping, nudity, and sexualized inspection — as part of Israeli Security Forces' standard operating procedures in the OPT.<sup>6</sup>

### Case 04 — Settlers Walking Naked Through Bedouin Shelters (WBPC, 2026)

Victims: Bedouin community (multiple families). Perpetrators: Israeli settlers. Location: Bedouin community, Area C. Outcome: Community fled overnight.<sup>1</sup>

Settlers deliberately walked naked between Bedouin shelters — a calculated act of sexual intimidation that caused the entire community to flee overnight. This tactic exploits cultural and social vulnerabilities of Bedouin and herding communities, in particular the acute harm caused to families' perceived safety and honor when women and children are exposed to such acts in private living spaces.

## Case 05 — Drone Surveillance of Bedrooms & Latrine Sexual Threats (WBPC, 2026)

Victims: Multiple Palestinian women across several communities. Perpetrators: Israeli settlers. Location: Multiple communities, Area C, West Bank.<sup>1</sup>

Two documented patterns of sexualized surveillance and threat: (1) Settlers deployed drones positioned outside bedroom windows with cameras directed at beds — a form of sexualized surveillance intended to violate privacy and generate constant fear. (2) Settlers made rape threats against women walking to latrines — a particularly acute vulnerability in communities without indoor sanitation, forcing women to either modify their movements (health risk) or face exposure to violent threats (protection risk). Both patterns directly altered daily life and were cited by women as reasons for displacement.

## Case 06 — Sexual Assault of Young Man, Khirbet Humsa (OHCHR OPT, April 2026)

Victim: Palestinian young man (identity protected). Perpetrators: Dozens of Israeli settlers. Location: Khirbet Humsa, northern Jordan Valley. Date: Approximately April 2026 (reported in UN press briefing April 17, 2026).<sup>8</sup>

The UN Human Rights Office for the OPT received accounts of dozens of settlers attacking Khirbet Humsa — one of the last standing communities in the northern Jordan Valley. Settlers assaulted Palestinian men and women in front of their children, stole livestock, and sexually assaulted a young man in what OHCHR Head Ajith Sunghay described as "a horrifying manner." Khirbet Humsa had already experienced prior forced displacement under settler and military pressure; this incident represented renewed targeting of a community in the last stages of resisting evacuation.

## Additional WBPC-Documented Patterns (Non-Individual Case Summaries)

Men and boys: Forced public stripping and nudity by ISF and settlers; sexual humiliation during detention, checkpoints and raids; documented at multiple locations across Area C.

Online targeting: ISF soldiers filmed themselves ransacking Palestinian homes including drawers of women's lingerie, posting online with derogatory sexualized comments about Palestinian women.

Sexualized graffiti: Israeli soldiers drew gendered and sexualized graffiti including at a women's shelter in Gaza (documented by UN Commission of Inquiry).

Systematic detention abuse: Palestinian detainees subjected to forced nudity while blindfolded, kneeling, hands tied behind back; interrogated while naked; coerced to perform physical movements while naked; filmed and photographed.

Al Hadidiya, Jordan Valley: Following establishment of an Israeli settler outpost in November 2025, residents report escalating violence. Only 4 families remain of an original 17 Bedouin families. One displaced resident told OHCHR the assault culminating his family's departure included elements of physical humiliation and sexualized degradation.

7. CNN. "Palestinian man in the West Bank says he was sexually assaulted by Israeli settlers," Jeremy Diamond, March 18, 2026. [cnn.com/2026/03/18/middleeast/west-bank-resident-sexual-assault](https://www.cnn.com/2026/03/18/middleeast/west-bank-resident-sexual-assault)

8. UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR). Press Briefing, Thameen Al-Kheetan and Ajith Sunghay, April 17, 2026. [media.un.org/avlibrary/en/asset/d354/d3545337](https://media.un.org/avlibrary/en/asset/d354/d3545337)

## SECTION 04

## Timeline of Escalation Since October 2023

The following timeline documents the escalation of settler violence, GBV incidents, and accountability failures in the West Bank from January 2023 through April 2026. The pre-October 7 period is included as a baseline for comparison.

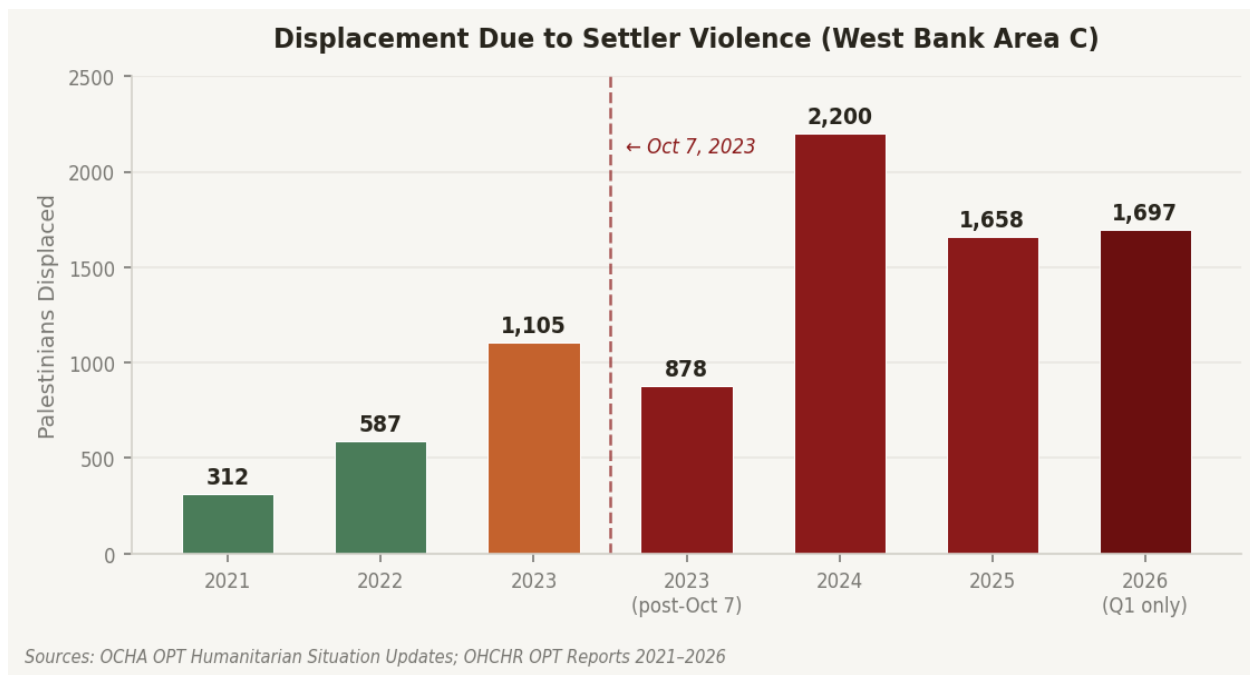


Fig. 1: Displacement due to settler violence and access restrictions by period (West Bank Area C)

Period	Key Events	GBV / Displacement Data
Jan–Sep 2023 (Baseline)	Record attacks pre-Oct 7 (avg. 2.3/day). Ben Gvir appointed; gun licenses eased. Settlers increasingly embedded in IDF reserve units.	1,105 people from 28 herding communities displaced. OHCHR documents GBV: Wedadie herding community women.
Oct 7–Dec 2023	Surge: 203 settler attacks in 25 days (avg. 8/day). Thousands of settlers enlisted into IDF. Settler militias armed. Sde Teiman detention facility established for Gaza detainees.	878 people (435 children) displaced across 15 communities. 8 Palestinians killed by settlers Oct 7–31. One-third of attacks involved active ISF escort of settlers.
Jan–Jun 2024	Attacks at 4–5/day. July 5: 5 soldiers sexually assault Gaza detainee at Sde Teiman. CCTV footage leaked. Settler riots at military bases.	UN Commission A/HRC/56/26: post-Oct 7 settler attack surge confirmed. Forced nudity, sexual humiliation documented as ISF procedures in OPT.
Jul–Dec 2024	Sde Teiman CCTV broadcast (Aug 4). Far-right Knesset members rally for accused soldiers. MAG Tomer-Yerushalmi accused of leaking footage.	OCHA: 2,200+ displaced in 2024. Yesh Din: ~30 mass violence incidents; 16 with ISF directly assisting attackers.
Jan–Dec 2025	1,770 settler attacks — highest on record since 2006 (avg. 5/day). 4 new outposts in Area B. MAG Tomer-Yerushalmi resigns Oct 2025. Al Mu'arrajat East depopulated (July 2025).	1,658 Palestinians displaced. Jordan Valley = one-third of displacement. 38 communities emptied since Oct 2023. OHCHR March 2025: sexual violence part of ISF standard procedures.
Jan–Apr 2026	All Sde Teiman charges dropped (March 12). Netanyahu praises soldiers. Qusai Abu al-Kebash sexually assaulted by settlers (March). 7 Palestinians killed by settlers in Q1. WBPC report published April 20. UN documents Khirbet Humsa assault.	1,697 displaced in Q1 — surpassing all of 2025. 6+ attacks/day since Feb 28 escalation. WBPC: 16+ documented sexual violence cases; 70%+ cite GBV threats as primary displacement reason.

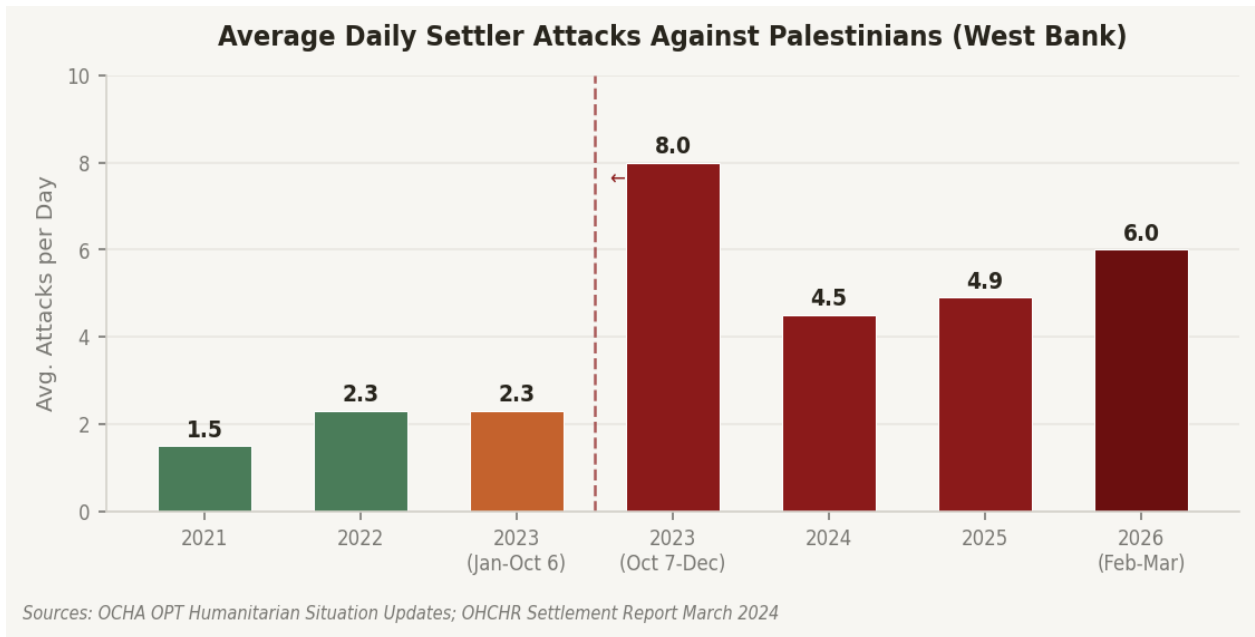


Fig. 2: Average daily settler attacks against Palestinians — escalation since October 7, 2023

## SECTION 05

## Geographic Breakdown — Jordan Valley & South Hebron Hills

GBV and coercive displacement are not distributed evenly across the West Bank. Two regions have been identified by OCHA, OHCHR, and the WBPC as the most severely affected: the Jordan Valley and the South Hebron Hills (including Masafer Yatta). Both areas are predominantly inhabited by Bedouin and semi-nomadic herding communities who are structurally most vulnerable to displacement — lacking formal land title, dependent on grazing access, and residing in communities without permanent infrastructure.

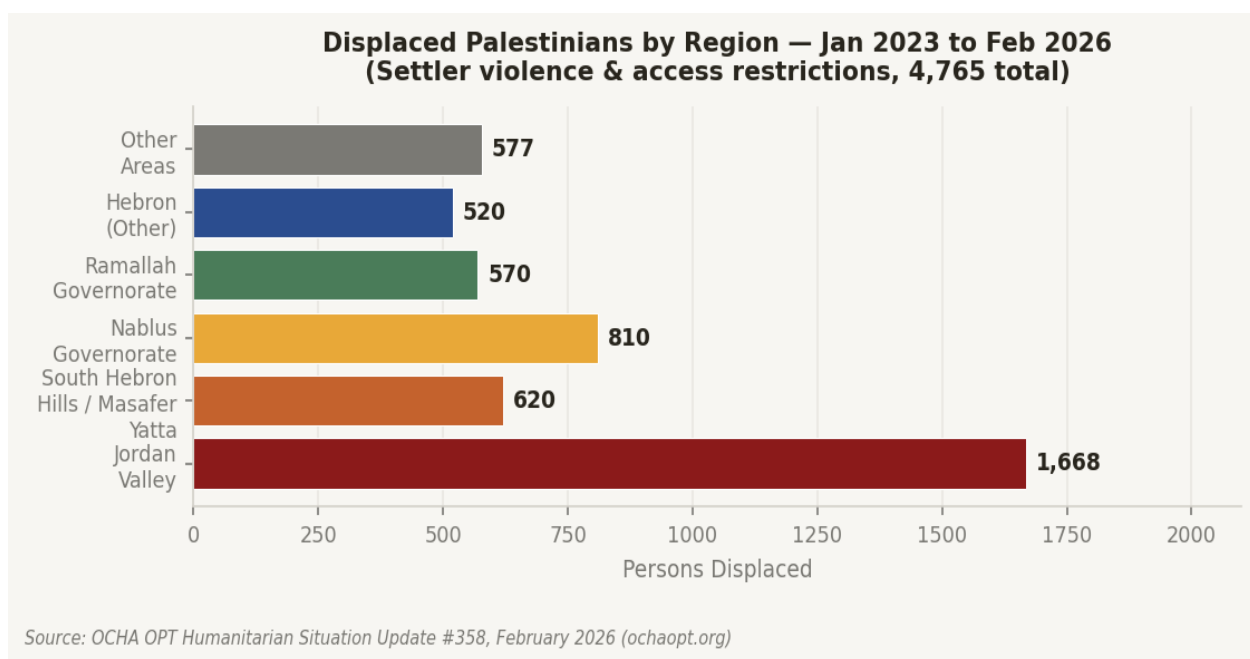


Fig. 3: Estimated distribution of displacement by region (Jan 2023 – Feb 2026, based on OCHA data)

### Jordan Valley (Tubas, Nablus, Jericho, Ramallah Governorates)

The Jordan Valley is the epicenter of displacement in the West Bank. OCHA data shows it accounts for over 35% of all settler-violence-related displacement since January 2023 — 1,656 of 4,765 people — despite being a comparatively smaller area. In January 2026, 600 Palestinians were displaced from Ras Ein al-'Auja Bedouin community alone — the highest single-community displacement figure recorded in three years of OCHA monitoring. Over 90% of all displacement recorded in Q1 2026 was in the Jordan Valley area.

Community/Area	Incident Type	Date	Persons Displaced
Ras Ein al-'Auja (Central Jordan Valley)	Two years of settler harassment/violence; final displacement	Jan 2026	600 (entire community)
Al Hadiyya (Northern Jordan Valley)	Outpost established Nov 2025; escalating raids; physical/sexual humiliation reported	Jan 2026	Most of 17 families (4 remain)
Humsa al-Bqaia (Tubas/N. Jordan Valley)	Settler harassment, threats, access restrictions to grazing/water	8 Feb 2026	7 households / 34 people
Hammamat al-Maleh (Tubas/N. Jordan Valley)	Settler arson attack	13 Feb 2026	4 households / 20 people

Al Jiftlik–Abu al-‘Ajaj (Jericho)	Settler incursions, stone-throwing, arson, livestock theft, threats	5 Feb 2026	10 households / 57 people
Al ‘Auja (Jericho)	Settler violence and access restrictions	5 Feb 2026	7 refugee households / 26 people
Ibziq (Tubas/N. Jordan Valley)	Settler attacks on school; assault on 7 ministry delegation members; attack on herders	4–7 Feb 2026	Not yet displaced but under sustained attack
Khirbet Humsa (N. Jordan Valley)	Settlers assaulted men and women in front of children; sexually assaulted young man; stole livestock	Apr 2026	Community in final stages of displacement

## South Hebron Hills & Masafer Yatta (Hebron Governorate)

The South Hebron Hills, and particularly Masafer Yatta (Firing Zone 918), have been the site of sustained settler violence with documented GBV elements. The WBPC and OHCHR have documented gender-based intimidation, including cases of settlers targeting women working on land and elderly residents. Israeli forces present during attacks typically respond by firing tear gas and stun grenades at Palestinians rather than intervening against settlers.

Community/Area	Incident Type	Date	Details
Susiya (South Hebron Hills)	Regular settler attacks — among top 3 most attacked communities nationally (OCHA)	Ongoing 2025–2026	19 attacks documented in 2-week OCHA reporting window (3–16 Feb 2026)
Rajoum A’li (Masafer Yatta)	Settlers attacked Palestinian herders; ran over 13-year-old boy with tractor	25 Jan 2026	Boy suffered broken leg; ISF present — fired tear gas at Palestinians, not settlers
Masafer Yatta / Firing Zone 918	~300 settlers attacked Halawa and Al Fakheit; set homes on fire; stole livestock; blocked ambulances	24 Jan 2026	Multiple injuries; forced displacement of households
Jinba (Masafer Yatta)	Settlers cut water network for 300+ residents; followed earlier attack on main pipeline	11 Feb 2026	~190 households lost water access; settlements expanding into firing zone
Mirkez (Masafer Yatta)	Settler threats to 120 beehives (primary income source)	11 Feb 2026	1 household / 9 people (6 children) displaced
Wedadie herding community	Gender-based violence aimed at degrading women and forcing them from land (OHCHR documented)	2023–2024	Palestinian women described systematic GBV; documented by OHCHR March 2024 settlements report
At Tuwani pipeline (Masafer Yatta)	Attack on main water pipeline serving 10 communities	28 Jan 2026	~190 households disrupted; continued attacks on water infrastructure as coercive tool

Key pattern: ISF complicity. In both regions, OCHA, OHCHR, and the WBPC consistently document Israeli forces present during settler attacks who do not intervene to protect Palestinian civilians. In some instances, forces actively fire non-lethal munitions at Palestinians during settler attacks. In others, they detain Palestinian residents or international activists providing protective presence while leaving settler perpetrators unimpeded. This creates a structural enablement of GBV and coercive displacement that the UN Commission characterizes as evidence of coordination between official forces and settlers.

9. OCHA OPT. "Settler violence drives forced displacement in the West Bank," January 2026. [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int) — Settler violence drives forced displacement

## SECTION 06

## Victim Impact Analysis

The WBPC survey of 83 households across 10 communities in Area C provides the most systematic quantitative data on how GBV and coercive displacement affect victims. The findings reveal devastation across every dimension of life — economic, psychological, educational, and social — with women, children, and elderly residents bearing disproportionate impacts.

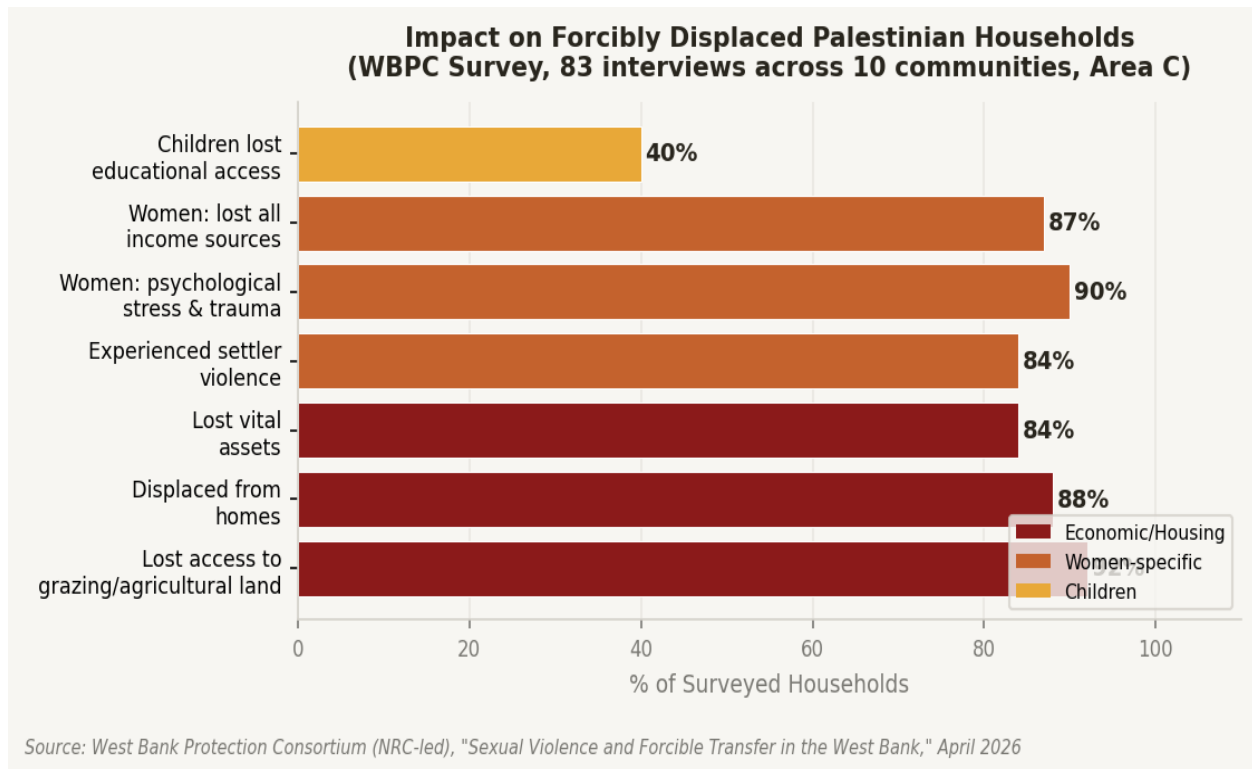


Fig. 4: WBPC survey findings — impact on displaced households across 10 Area C communities

### Gender-Specific Impacts

**Women:** Women face a dual burden: they are directly targeted by sexualized violence and harassment, and they bear the heaviest economic consequences after displacement. The WBPC found 87% of women who experienced forcible transfer lost all sources of income. 90% reported increased psychological stress and trauma. Women who survive sexual violence in these communities often cannot report to Israeli authorities due to fear of further targeting, lack of effective investigation, and the risk that settlers will be alerted to their identity. Families resort to early marriage as a protective response — a harmful secondary consequence of insecurity.<sup>1</sup>

**Men and boys:** The UN Commission's March 2025 report and the OCHA Protection Cluster analysis document that men and boys face specific forms of GBV: forced public stripping and nudity (97% of those killed or injured by Israeli forces in the West Bank are male); 99% of detainees are male. Male victims of sexual violence face severe additional barriers to reporting due to social stigma and the absence of any protective legal mechanism. Qusai Abu al-Kebash's decision to speak publicly was described as exceptional.

**Children:** 40% of children in displaced households lost access to education. Four Palestinian children were killed in the West Bank in the final two weeks of 2025 alone (3 by Israeli forces, 1 by settlers). Children are directly exposed to violent assault on their parents — the Khirbet Humsa attack specifically involved settlers assaulting parents in front of their children, a documented tactic of psychological destruction of family structures.

## Economic Annihilation

The WBPC found that 92% of displaced households lost access to grazing and agricultural land. For Bedouin and herding communities, this represents total economic destruction: livestock herding is their primary and often only source of income. Settlers systematically steal, harm, or drive away livestock, damage water infrastructure, and deny access to grazing land — sometimes using legal mechanisms (military closed zones, firing zones) alongside physical violence. In the Qusai Abu al-Kebash case, the theft of hundreds of sheep was documented alongside the sexual assault — confirming that GBV and economic depredation occur as a combined displacement package.

## Protective Behavioral Changes Caused by GBV

- Women stop collecting firewood, fetching water, or using latrines alone
- Women removed from communities to stay with family elsewhere
- Children kept home from school or escorted by multiple adults
- Early marriage of girls to 'protect' them — itself a harmful practice
- Men traveling in groups; movements limited to daylight hours
- Communities abandoning agricultural work at key periods (olive harvest)
- Abandonment of grazing routes that settlers have claimed

Each of these adaptations constitutes a partial displacement in itself — communities losing effective use of land and resources even before physical departure, making "voluntary" evacuation a false description of what is occurring.

## SECTION 07

## The Sde Teiman Case — Legal Outcome & Impunity

The Sde Teiman case is the most extensively documented case of sexual violence by Israeli soldiers against a Palestinian detainee. Its resolution — the dropping of all charges in March 2026 — is treated by international human rights organizations as the definitive demonstration of Israel's impunity architecture.

### Case Summary

Element	Details
Date of incident	July 5, 2024
Location	Sde Teiman military detention facility, Negev Desert (established post-October 7, 2023)
Victim	Palestinian detainee from Gaza (unnamed; later released to Gaza as part of ceasefire, Oct 2025)
Perpetrators	5 soldiers from Force 100 unit (responsible for guarding Palestinian detainees at Sde Teiman)
Nature of assault	Victim was dragged on floor, stepped on, subjected to electric shocks, and penetrated with a sharp object inserted into his anus. Injuries: fractured ribs, punctured lung, internal rectal tear.
Documentation	Partially recorded on CCTV; leaked to Israeli TV by MAG Tomer-Yerushalmi (broadcast Aug 4, 2024). Medical reports confirm injuries. Polygraph tests indicated suspects lied about not inserting object.
Initial response	July 29, 2024: 10 soldiers arrested. Far-right Knesset members and settlers staged riots at Sde Teiman and Beit Lid military bases demanding soldiers' release. 2 then 3 soldiers released without charge.
Charges filed	February 2025: Indictment issued against 5 soldiers for aggravated assault and inflicting severe bodily harm.
Political response	PM Netanyahu praised soldiers; Defense Minister Katz called case a 'blood libel'; MK Hanoch Milwidsky stated inserting a stick into a detainee's anus was 'completely lawful.'
MAG Tomer-Yerushalmi	Military Advocate General resigned October 2025 after admitting to authorizing video leak under political pressure.
Charges dropped	March 12, 2026: All charges dropped by new MAG Itai Ofir. Stated reasons: CCTV footage 'did not clearly demonstrate extreme violence'; victim returned to Gaza and unavailable for testimony; 'exceptional circumstances' including 'senior official misconduct'; 'procedural difficulties' in transferring evidence from police.
Post-dismissal	Soldiers returned to reserve duty. Netanyahu praised the decision: 'The State of Israel must hunt down its enemies, not its own heroic fighters.'

### Human Rights Organization Responses

Amnesty International: Described the dismissal as "another unconscionable act in the legal system's enduring pattern of granting impunity to those who commit serious crimes against Palestinians."

Yesh Din: Stated the dismissal "demonstrates that Israel is unwilling and incapable of prosecuting soldiers suspected of serious breaches of international humanitarian law." Only two indictments have been issued regarding crimes committed by Israeli soldiers during the entire Gaza conflict — none resulting in conviction.

Palestinian Center for Prisoners Advocacy: Called it "a clear attempt to obscure the truth" confirming that "the Israeli military judicial system functions merely as a mechanism to shield crimes and grant them immunity."

Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor: Characterized the dismissal as "further evidence of the structural and deliberate collapse of Israel's justice and accountability system" and called on the ICC Prosecutor to urgently prioritize investigations into crimes against Palestinian detainees.

Action on Armed Violence (AOAV): Reviewed 52 publicly reported IDF investigations of incidents linked to over 1,300 Palestinian deaths (Oct 2023–Jun 2025): 88% were closed without findings of fault or left unresolved. Only one indictment was issued total.

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10. BBC News. "Israel drops charges against soldiers accused of abusing Gaza detainee," March 12, 2026. [bbc.com/news/articles/cm2xrz71zm3o](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cm2xrz71zm3o)

11. Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor. "Dropping Sde Teiman case on rape of Palestinian detainee," March 13, 2026. [euromedmonitor.org/en/article/7002](https://euromedmonitor.org/en/article/7002)

12. +972 Magazine. "A riot for impunity shows Israel's proud embrace of its crimes," August 1, 2024. [972mag.com/sde-teiman-beit-lid-protests-detainees/](https://972mag.com/sde-teiman-beit-lid-protests-detainees/)

SECTION 08

# Settler Violence Impunity — Systemic Data

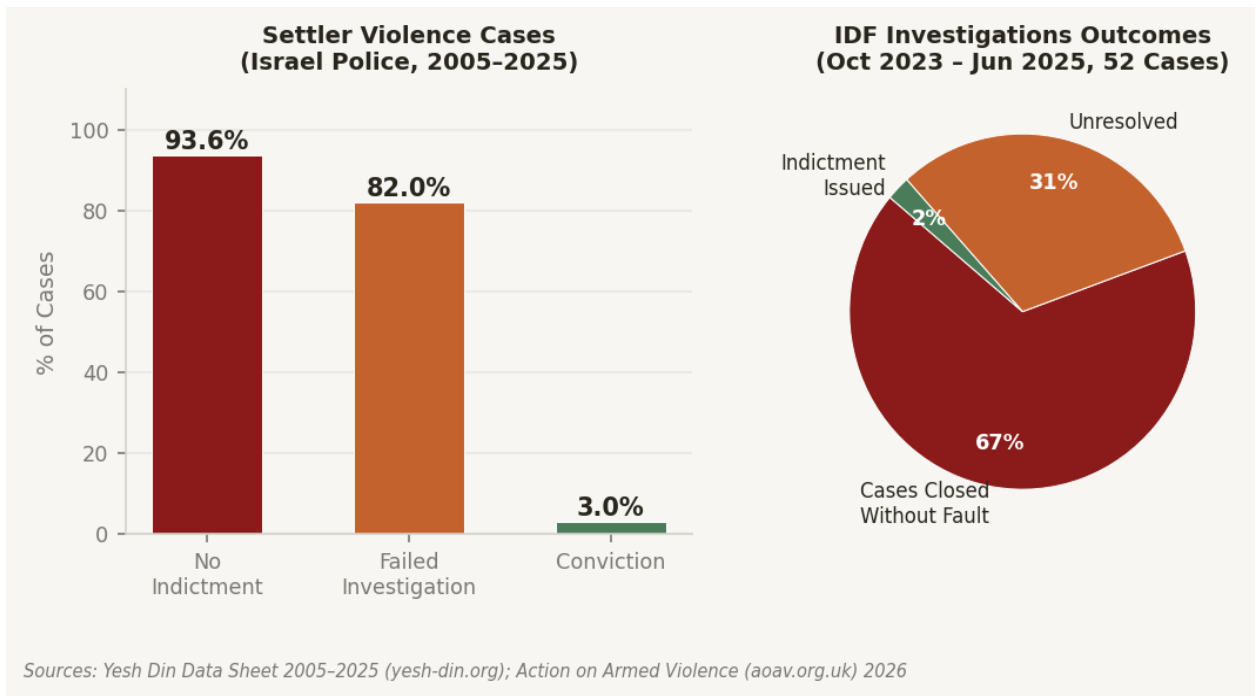


Fig. 5: Accountability outcomes — Yesh Din settler violence data (2005–2025) and IDF investigations (Oct 2023 – Jun 2025)

Systematic analysis of enforcement data reveals that impunity for Israeli violence against Palestinians — including sexual violence — is not a failure of the legal system but its operational output. Yesh Din's 20-year dataset is unambiguous:<sup>4</sup>

- 93.6% of all settler violence investigation files opened by Israel Police since 2005 ended without indictment
- 82% of these cases failed at the investigation stage — insufficient effort to build a prosecutable case
- 3% of investigation files opened into ideologically motivated crimes against Palestinians led to any conviction
- ~30 incidents of organized mass violence documented by Yesh Din between 2023–Nov 2025; in 16 of these, soldiers/police present assisted the attack
- 2 total indictments issued by IDF for crimes against Palestinians during the entire Gaza/West Bank conflict (as of 2026)
- 1 total conviction produced by IDF military justice system for crimes in Gaza/West Bank (AOAV analysis)

The UN Commission of Inquiry (March 2025) concluded that this pattern constitutes a system designed to provide cover for ongoing crimes: "The exculpatory statements and actions by Israeli leaders and the lack of effectiveness shown by the military justice system to prosecute cases and convict perpetrators send a clear message to members of the Israeli Security Forces that they can continue committing such acts without fear of accountability."<sup>6</sup>

OHCHR spokesperson Thameen Al-Kheetan stated in April 2026: "Settler violence continued in a coordinated, strategic and largely unchallenged manner, with Israeli authorities playing the central role in directing, participating in or enabling this conduct. Longstanding and pervasive impunity is facilitating and encouraging violence against and harassment of Palestinians."<sup>13</sup>

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13. OHCHR. Settlement expansion report press briefing, Thameen Al-Kheetan, April 17, 2026. [media.un.org/avlibrary/en/asset/d354/d3545337](https://media.un.org/avlibrary/en/asset/d354/d3545337)

## SECTION 09

## Coercive Displacement Analysis

The relationship between GBV and forced displacement in the West Bank is not incidental — it is the operative mechanism. Sexual violence and sexualized harassment function as tools within a systematic strategy to coerce Palestinians from Area C, particularly from strategic land in the Jordan Valley and South Hebron Hills.

### The Displacement Mechanism: Anatomy of Coercion

The WBPC and OHCHR documentation describes a consistent sequence in how communities are emptied:

Step 1: New settler outpost established near or within a Palestinian community (often on Palestinian agricultural land or grazing territory)

Step 2: Settlers restrict access to water sources, grazing land, and agricultural fields — economic strangulation begins

Step 3: Periodic raids on the community: property damage, livestock theft, physical assaults, sexualized harassment and intimidation

Step 4: Specific GBV incidents — sexual threats, assault, forced nudity, surveillance — targeted at women, creating profound insecurity inside the home

Step 5: ISF presence during raids without intervention; in some cases active support for settler attacks

Step 6: Communities begin self-protective behavioral changes (women confined, children kept home, livestock moved), effectively reducing their use of and attachment to land

Step 7: Demolition notices issued for Palestinian structures (lack Israeli permits, which are effectively impossible to obtain in Area C)

Step 8: One or more triggering events (arson, mass assault, sexual violence) cause overnight or rapid evacuation

Step 9: Once communities leave, return is prevented: land re-zoned, outpost expanded, new settlers move in

This process — termed "creeping annexation" by OHCHR in its April 2026 settlements report — has resulted in 38 communities fully emptied since October 2023 and an accelerating pace: in Q1 2026, displacement was already exceeding all of 2025 with the new regional military escalation.<sup>5</sup>

### GBV as a Specific Driver Within This Framework

The WBPC's most significant finding is that sexual violence is not merely correlated with displacement — it is a primary driver. Over 70% of displaced households cited threats to women and children, particularly sexualized violence, as the decisive reason for leaving. This exceeds the proportion citing demolitions, water deprivation, or livestock theft as primary causes.

The UN Commission of Inquiry concluded in March 2025 that the ISF's "findings demonstrate a clear pattern of members of the ISF and settlers committing sexual and gender-based crimes aimed at instilling fear with the underlying intention to perpetuate Palestinian subordination and remove Palestinians from their land." Sexual violence is intended not only to harm the individual victim but to destroy the community's capacity to remain intact.

### Escalation Linked to Geopolitical Events

Trigger Event	Observed Effect on West Bank GBV/Displacement
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October 7, 2023	Immediate 350% surge in daily settler attacks; thousands of settlers enlisted into IDF; Sde Teiman established; GBV at detention facilities begins to be documented
Ben Gvir appointment as National Security Minister	Eased gun licensing; armed settler militias; directed prison conditions worsening per UN Commission findings
Israeli declaration of war / state of emergency	West Bank treated as closed military zone; mass civilian arrests; GBV in detention escalates
August 2024 (Sde Teiman video leak)	Settler riots normalize impunity expectation; right-wing political cover for sexual abuse of detainees; chilling effect on investigations
February 28, 2026 (regional escalation)	6+ settler attacks/day; 38 communities emptied; 1,697 displaced in Q1 2026 — already exceeding all of 2025

## Land Seizure Correlation

OHCHR's April 2026 settlements report documents that "the Israeli government has accelerated unlawful settlement expansion and annexation of large parts of the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, forcibly displacing over 36,000 Palestinians amid increasing violence by Israeli security forces and settlers." The displacement patterns documented in this report map precisely onto settlement expansion zones: the Jordan Valley (targeted for annexation in successive Israeli government plans) accounts for 35% of displacement; Masafer Yatta/South Hebron Hills (military firing zones reclassified for settlement expansion) is experiencing the fastest community-emptying rate outside the Jordan Valley.

The Israeli Security Cabinet's February 8, 2026 measures — including re-opening land registries, removing land transaction restrictions, and allocating NIS 244 million (US\$79 million) to resume land registration/settlement procedures in Area C — confirm that displacement is the precondition for legal settlement expansion. GBV is thus an instrument of a state land-acquisition policy.

## SECTION 10

## Conclusions & Recommendations

### Key Conclusions

1. Sexual violence in the West Bank is systematic, not incidental.

The WBPC, UN Commission of Inquiry, and OHCHR all conclude that GBV is a deliberate instrument of coercive displacement. Specific forms — forced nudity, sexual assault, rape threats, sexualized surveillance — constitute part of ISF standard operating procedures per the UN Commission's March 2025 finding.

2. Impunity is structural, not a failure of individual cases.

93.6% of settler violence files closed without indictment over 20 years. Only 1 total conviction produced by IDF military justice during the current conflict. Sde Teiman charges dropped despite CCTV evidence, medical documentation, and polygraph evidence. Political leaders have publicly praised perpetrators.

3. GBV drives displacement at higher rates than other coercive tools.

70%+ of displaced households cite sexual violence threats as primary displacement reason — exceeding economic deprivation and demolitions. The gender dimension of displacement has been systematically underestimated in prior documentation.

4. The Jordan Valley and South Hebron Hills face specific, acute risk.

35% of all documented displacement since Jan 2023 is in the Jordan Valley. 38 communities emptied since October 2023. These regions are the primary target of settlement expansion policy and the site of the most intensive GBV documentation.

5. The escalation since October 7, 2023 is severe and accelerating.

Displacement rate in Q1 2026 already exceeds all of 2025. Settler attacks at highest recorded level. Geopolitical escalations (October 2023, February 2026) produce immediate, documented surges in violence and displacement.

### Recommendations

For	Recommended Action
UN Security Council & Member States	1. Establish independent international accountability mechanism with access to Israeli detention facilities. 2. Activate third-state obligations under ICJ July 2024 Advisory Opinion — non-recognition, non-assistance, duty to cooperate. 3. Impose targeted sanctions on officials who commit, order, or protect perpetrators of GBV.
International Criminal Court (ICC)	1. Prioritize investigation of crimes against Palestinian detainees — including sexual violence at Sde Teiman and equivalent facilities — as part of existing OPT investigation. 2. Pursue individual accountability for commanders who condoned GBV as operating procedures. 3. Apply universal jurisdiction provisions for states where perpetrators travel.
Human Rights Bodies (UN HRC, OHCHR)	1. Mandate independent investigation of systematic settler GBV as a displacement mechanism — building on WBPC April 2026 report. 2. Produce annual accountability scorecard tracking indictments, convictions, and dropped cases. 3. Expand survivor interview access and protection protocols for GBV documentation in Area C.

NGOs / Civil Society (Yesh Din, B'Tselem, MSF, NRC, etc.)	1. Expand GBV-specific documentation networks in Jordan Valley and South Hebron Hills. 2. Prioritize male survivor support and reporting pathways — specifically stigma-reduction protocols. 3. Document and preserve evidence of ISF complicity in settler GBV for ICC submission.
Media	1. Maintain Qusai Abu al-Kebash case coverage and track Israeli investigation outcomes. 2. Document and investigate other WBPC-identified cases with survivor consent. 3. Report on correlation between settlement expansion announcements and displacement/GBV incidents.

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## Methodology Note

This report is a research compilation based on publicly available primary source documentation by international and human rights organizations. All statistics, incident descriptions, and legal findings are sourced directly from the organizations cited above. Displacement data charts use figures from OCHA OPT situation updates; where multiple OCHA reports provided overlapping data, the most recent figure was used. The WBPC report (April 2026) uses a minimum figure of 16 documented sexual violence cases with the explicit note that underreporting is severe; this report reflects that minimum and supplements it with cases documented through OHCHR monitoring and verified media accounts. This document was compiled for journalistic and advocacy research purposes. Compiled by Perplexity Computer, April 22, 2026.