

# WEST BANK PALESTINIANS AT RISK OF FORCIBLE TRANSFER

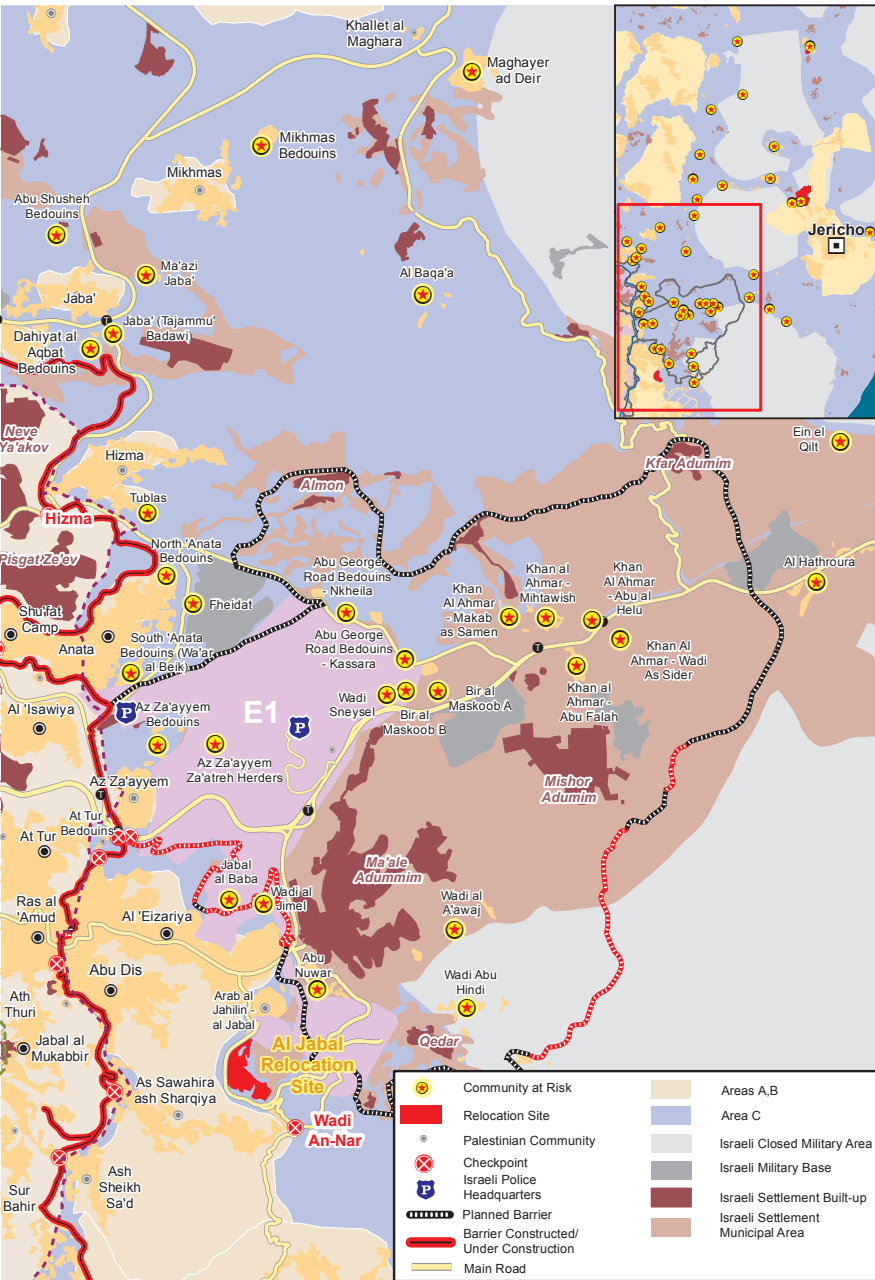
## KEY FACTS

- Between 2009 and 2016, Israeli authorities demolished or seized over 4,800 Palestinian-owned structures in the West Bank, mostly in Area C and East Jerusalem.
- Less than 1% of Area C and some 13% of East Jerusalem have Israeli approved plans, allowing Palestinians to apply for building permits.
- The average rate of approval of applications for building permits for Palestinians in Area C in 2009-2016 stood at less than 3%. There are currently over 12,500 demolition orders pending against Palestinian property in Area C.
- More than 70% of communities located entirely or mostly in Area C are not connected to the water network and rely on tankered water at vastly increased cost.
- 46 Palestinian Bedouin communities in the central West Bank, home to some 8,000 Palestinians, the majority registered Palestine refugees, have been targeted by the Israeli authorities for “relocation” to a number of designated sites.
- Nearly 30% of Area C is designated as “firing zones” for Israeli military training where residency or access is prohibited. These areas are home to over 6,200 Palestinians at risk of eviction.
- Access of Palestinian farmers to land isolated by the Barrier is restricted to 84 agricultural gates, of which 65 operate only during the olive harvest.
- Over 14,500 East Jerusalem Palestinians have had their IDs revoked since 1967.
- At least a third of Palestinians in East Jerusalem live in unlicensed homes and face the risk of demolition and displacement. Over 800 Palestinians are at risk of eviction due to legal cases initiated mostly by Israeli settler organizations.
- Nearly a third of the housing units in the settlement-affected area of Hebron city were abandoned by their Palestinian residents and are currently vacant.

- 1. Many Palestinians across the occupied West Bank, particularly in Area C, East Jerusalem, and the settlement area of Hebron city (H2), are at risk of forcible transfer. Certain Israeli policies and practices applied in these areas create a coercive environment, which generates pressure on Palestinians to leave their communities.**<sup>11</sup> These include the demolition and threat of demolition of homes, schools and livelihoods; denial of service infrastructure; access restrictions on farming and grazing land; poor law enforcement on violent settlers; the active promotion of ‘relocation’ plans; and revocation of residency rights, among others.
- 2. The restrictive and discriminatory planning regime applied in Area C and East Jerusalem makes it virtually impossible for Palestinians to obtain the requisite Israeli building permits.** Public and confiscated land in those areas has been allocated almost exclusively to Israeli settlements or to the military. Most private land has been zoned as agricultural or ‘green’, or not planned, impeding the issuance of permits in these areas. To meet their housing and livelihood needs, many Palestinians are left with little choice than to build without permits, risking demolition and displacement, or to move elsewhere.
- 3. Access to large agricultural areas across Area C is prohibited or severely restricted, undermining the livelihoods of Palestinian communities, especially areas between the Barrier and the Green Line, and Palestinian farmland within or next to Israeli settlements, which can be reached only a few days a year.** Access to traditional grazing land in areas designated as ‘firing zones’ is prohibited. Cultivation or grazing in areas declared as ‘nature reserves’ is heavily restricted.
- 4. The Israeli authorities have facilitated the takeover by Israeli settlers of properties in the heart of Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem and Hebron city (H2) and the establishment of settlements there.** In many cases this has involved the eviction of families residing in those properties and generated a range of restrictions for those living nearby, including on the use of public space, on residential growth and on freedom of movement.
- 5. Most Palestinians living in annexed East Jerusalem are considered ‘permanent residents’ of Israel under Israeli law.** While this status ensures some social and economic rights, it can be revoked on various grounds, forcing people to leave the city or preventing them from returning. This has been implemented mainly towards Palestinians who failed to prove that Jerusalem is their ‘centre of life’, or who have obtained residency in another country.

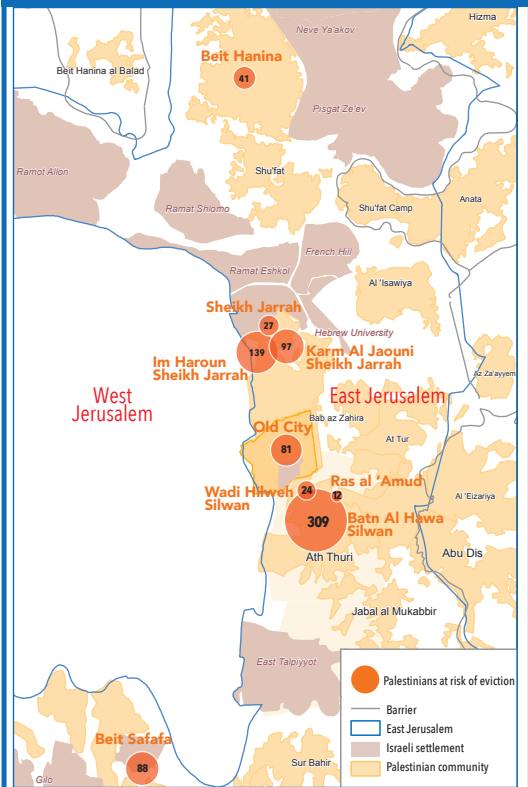
11. “Displacement and relocation to alternative residential areas, as a result of demolition orders, and a coercive environment, could amount to individual and mass forcible transfer and forced evictions, contrary to the obligations of Israel under international humanitarian and human rights law”. Report of the Secretary-General, A/HRC/31/43, 20 January 2016, para. 68.

## PALESTINIAN BEDOUIN COMMUNITIES IN THE CENTRAL WEST BANK AT RISK OF FORCIBLE TRANSFER



## EAST JERUSALEM: PALESTINIANS AT RISK OF EVICTION

court cases filed mostly by Israeli settler organizations



	Households	People
Beit Hanina	7	41
Beit Safafa	17	88
Sheikh Jarrah, Im Haroun	35	139
Sheikh Jarrah, Karm al Jaouni	23	97
Sheikh Jarrah	8	27
Silwan - Batn al Hawa	62	309
Silwan - Wadi Hilweh	5	24
Ras al 'Amud	2	12
Old City - Burj Laqlaq	3	6
Old City - Al Qirami	4	20
Old City - Aqbat as Saraya	6	24
Old City - Aqbat al Khaldiya	8	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>818</b>

