

# FORCED DISPLACEMENTS & HOME DEMOLITIONS



The West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip are all deemed militarily occupied territory by international law (including by the U.S. government), and as such, it remains illegal to move civilians of the occupying power into occupied territory.

- International humanitarian law (namely the 4th Geneva Convention) legally regulates and outlines the rights and duties of both occupied people and the occupying power.

Since 1967 when Israel took occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, the Israeli government has demolished at least 55,000 Palestinian homes to establish illegal settlements and annex swaths of land into the State of Israel (Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions).

- So far in 2021, 474 structures have been demolished, forcibly displacing hundreds of Palestinians throughout the occupied territory (last updated 12 July, UN OCHA).

Demolished homes, roads, and water lines literally cut off thousands of people from basic human rights and leave them vulnerable to settler attacks from nearby outposts and settlements.

- Despite settlements and outposts being considered illegal by the international community, as of 2017, there were an estimated 622,670 settlers living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem (B'Tselem).

Photo: Almuna Project



**Home demolitions are not the only cause of forced displacement for Palestinians.**

- **Denied access to health services, basic sanitation, water, electricity, education, and freedom of movement often force Palestinians out of Area C of the West Bank (Save the Children report).**
- **Lack of access to municipal services, movement, educational opportunities, places of worship, jobs/livelihood and the threat of revocation of their residency rights have also forced Palestinians out of East Jerusalem.**

**Forced displacement also affects those living in more than 100 unrecognized villages within Israel as well as the Palestinian Bedouin population in the Negev Desert.**

- **Around 70,000 people face the threat of displacement due to Israeli government plans for the land.**
- **One such village (Al-Araqib) has been demolished 184 times, as of March 2021 (Anadolu Agency).**

**HR 2590, the “Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act,” demands steps to ensure no US funds are used to support the detention of Palestinian children in the Israeli military court system, Israeli annexation of occupied Palestinian land, or the destruction of Palestinian property.**

**For more information on HR 2590, visit the [No Way to Treat a Child website](#).**

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) promotes a world free of violence, inequality, and oppression. Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light within each person, we nurture the seeds of change and the respect for human life to fundamentally transform our societies and institutions.

**Photo: Almuna Project**

