Palestine refugees displaced by demolitions
west bank
by Israeli authorities in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem

2016

613 refugees from a total of 1,628 Palestinians displaced by demolitions in 2016.

329 refugee-owned structures demolished (out of 1,094 structures in total)

This is the highest number of structures demolished and Palestinians displaced since the UN began systematically recording statistics in 2009

Why?

As a result of Israel’s restrictive planning and permit regime in Area C and East Jerusalem, many Palestinians build without permits, though mostly on private land, to meet their housing needs and risk having their structures demolished. Except in cases of immediate security needs, an occupying power must act to safeguard the interests of the protected population. As the occupying power, Israel has obligations under international law to administer the Palestinian territory for the benefit of the protected Palestinian population, and strict conditions apply to the destruction of private property, related exclusively to military necessity or the security of the protected population.

47% of refugees displaced are minors

49% are female

50% of refugee owned structures demolished were residential

38% of Palestinians displaced are refugees (refugees are individuals and their descendants originally displaced as a result of the first Arab-Israeli war)

Palestine refugees displaced and affected by demolitions throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

Fourth Geneva Convention

Article 53 (1950):

Any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property belonging individually or collectively to private persons, or to the State, or to other public authorities, or to social or cooperative organizations, is prohibited, except where such destruction is rendered absolutely necessary by military operations.

Palestine refugees displaced and affected by demolitions

Cash assistance provided to 136 displaced refugee families comprising 785 individuals

Total figures from OCHA. Refugee disaggregated figures from UNRWA

* The term affected by demolitions refers to the demolitions of livelihood structures, uninhabited residential structures, water-related structures and other types of infrastructure

**Note: 75% of all demolitions occurred in Area C (1,225) & 17% in East Jerusalem (281). The remaining 8% of Palestinian displacements occurred in Area A or Area B (122)

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