



Arab Labor Organization



## Report of the Director General of the Arab Labor Organization

Israeli Settlements and their Social and Economic Effects on Employers and Workers in  
Palestine and the Other Occupied Arab Territories (the Syrian Golan and Southern Lebanon)

the 111th Session of the  
International Labor Conference 2023

Geneva, 5-16 June 2023





**Israeli Settlements and their Social and  
Economic Effects on Employers and  
Workers in Palestine and the Other  
Occupied Arab Territories (the Syrian  
Golan and Southern Lebanon)**

**Report of the Director General of the Arab  
Labor Organization**

**Presented to the 111<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
International Labor Conference 2023**

**Geneva, 5-16 June 2023**

## **Introduction**

This report is a part of our incessant follow-up endeavors for the social and economic effects of the Israeli occupation on employers and workers in Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories. Therefore, we are pleased to present this annual report in four languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish, so that it is circulated to the three production parties all over the world and to the representatives of the international community organizations participating in the 111<sup>th</sup> session of the International Labor Conference 2023. This aims at introducing to the world the real violations against workers and peoples of the occupied Arab territories. We hope that this important document helps to raise awareness and accountability among all actors at the Arab, regional and international levels to make serious and quick moves to offer more support, improve the current situation, and contribute to enhancing the opportunities to end the Israeli occupation, and achieve security and stability in the region.

This report sheds light on the most significant Israeli crimes and violations in 2022 as follows:

### **The Most Prominent Violations Against Palestinian Workers:**

The policies and procedures of the occupation caused the fragility and weakness of the Palestinian economy. This affected the labor market to a great extent, as the unemployment rate reached 25%, and the number of people unemployed are approximately 378,500, most of whom are fresh graduates. In addition, there is an increase in poverty rates, which jumped to be close to 30%, making the Israeli labor market an obligatory option. Palestinian statistics indicate that the number of Palestinian workers in the Israeli labor market is more than 204 thousand workers, constituting 20% of the size of the Palestinian labor force. The number of Palestinian workers working legally within the Green Line is 103 thousand workers, 75% of whom work in the most dangerous construction sector, 15% in the agricultural sector, and 10% in the services and industry sectors.

### **The Most Prominent Crimes And Violations Of The Occupation Include:**

- Direct targeting of the Palestinian people;
- Destruction and demolition of houses and properties;
- Building settlements and confiscating lands; and
- Judaization of Jerusalem.

In addition, there are plenty of crimes committed by the occupation in Gaza strip, Jordan Valley, area C and areas inside the Wall.

The occupation continued the policy of confiscating lands, building more settlement outposts and dozens of roads, while seizing hundreds of dunums under the pretext of military use. It also continues to confiscate natural resources, especially water reserves, declaring thousands of dunums as natural reserve areas. The occupation established more than ten outposts in Tubas areas, seized large areas for military training purposes, destroyed hundreds of greenhouses, and set up dozens of roadblocks.

#### **The Most Prominent Israeli Economic Violations:**

- Deductions from the clearance funds;
- Control over economic resources and their effect on the Palestinian economy;
- Israeli block of movement of goods (imports and exports, raw materials, product marketing);
- Competition with settlements' produce;
- Attacking, closing and destroying economic facilities

The report of the Lebanese Minister of Labor on the social and economic situation of employers and workers in the occupied territories in southern Lebanon in 2022 indicates that Israel's occupation of Lebanese territories (Shebaa Farms and Kafr Shuba Hills) negatively affects any investment in these lands that have massive natural, geographical and water advantages. Consequently, this affects the conditions of employers and workers in that occupied area.

#### **The Report Also Highlights Violations Against The Lebanese Workers As Follows:**

Unemployment rates range from 30 to 40 %, especially among women, coupled with harsh living conditions, absence of natural life in villages, and lack of infrastructure appropriate to conduct business affect both employers and workers alike.

#### **The Most Important Problems That Cause The Area To Suffer Include:**

- Difficulty of mobility between villages due to lack of means of transportation and the deteriorating condition of roads;
- Repeated water outages;
- Very difficult condition of power supply;

- Lack of marketing of agricultural produce, especially olive oil;
- Lack of agricultural roads;
- Ignoring to count lands to determine ownership of real estate;
- Low standard of official education;
- Lack of sufficient hospitals, dispensaries and clinics, as there are several villages close to the border line that suffer from the absence of the minimum levels of health requirements.
- The constant sense of fear of Israeli aggression is the reason that leads to the disruption of life in the occupied border areas.

The above points are a summary of the sufferings of employers and workers.

**The Latest Available Reports On The Social And Economic Conditions And The Labor Sector In The Occupied Arab Syrian Golan In 2022 Indicate That:**

Despite the denunciation campaigns of what is happening in the Syrian Arab lands, Israel defies, with contempt, the international community, violating all decisions issued by international organizations and their affiliated bodies. In light of the available information and recent data that reflect the suffering of employers, workers and Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan in 2022 due to the arbitrary practices of the Israeli occupation authorities, despite the harsh and dangerous conditions in Syria in general. This is summarized as follows:

- The Israeli occupation authorities destroy the antiquities of the Syrian Arab Golan;
- The Israeli occupation authorities imposed the Israeli educational curricula and enforced Hebrew as the education language;
- The Israeli occupation authorities continue to create new minefields and maintain the old ones in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan;
- The Israeli occupation forces buried large amounts of nuclear waste in about 20 locations in the occupied Golan;
- The Israeli occupation authorities link the economy of the villages in the occupied Golan to the Israeli economy, making the former completely dependent on Israeli companies;
- The Israeli occupation authorities sell real estate and properties of the Syrian citizens who left or were deported from their villages;

- The Israeli occupation authorities refuse to pay or deliver hospitalization compensations to workers with permanent or partial injuries, those who need health care especially because of their injury during work, as they are not covered by the compensation law;
- According to the Israeli procedures applicable to the Syrian Arab workers, Syrian workers are classified as "third-class workers" after the Jewish and foreign workers. This racist classification allowed the authorities of the Israeli occupation and the various employers, to exploit the Syrian workers to work in the Israeli labor sector in positions refused by the Jewish or foreign workers. Most of these jobs reserved for Arab minority workers and they are classified in Israel as "dirty and hard work," which is a racist Zionist term.

**Fayez Ali Al-Mutairi**

**Director General**

## **Section 1**

# **Effects of Israeli Settlements on the Social and Economic Conditions and the Labor Sector in Palestine in 2022**

## Introduction

Preparing this report coincides with assumption of the extremist and right-wing Israeli government led by Netanyahu of its duties and announcement of its program which considers all Palestinian land as Jewish land vulnerable for settlements, displacing its inhabitants, rejecting any political solutions or establishing a Palestinian state. This is coupled with escalating policies aimed at displacing the Palestinian people, strangling it economically, seizing its sanctities in Al-Ibrahimi Mosque, creating conditions for the establishment of the Temple in place of Al-Aqsa Mosque. The extremist Israeli government works to legislate laws for seizing Palestinian clearance funds, laws for executing prisoners, and laws for canceling the divisions of areas, including areas (A) that are currently under the control of the Palestinian Authority. The approaches adopted by the new government is a declaration of war on everything Palestinian, which is the peak of the previous occupation policies.

This report addresses part of the violations committed in 2022. These violations are not but permanent policies against the Palestinian people based on the concept of emptying the land of its inhabitants, building settlements on it, and controlling resources to prevent any form of development. Under these policies, we witness the continuity of daily killings, arrest operations, demolition of homes and facilities, controlling lands, and isolating population centers with walls, barriers, and permanent closures.

The occupation has, in effect, ended the two-state solution, closed the political horizon, and disavowed all agreements. It also practices all its tricks and policies to beat the steadfastness of the Palestinian people, especially the permanent economic blockade, and this is culminated with the continuous Judaization of sanctities.



## Executive Summary

The Israeli occupation forces killed 224 Palestinians, while April witnessed the peak of these killings as Jerusalem alone witnesses the death of 7 martyrs in, including a journalist and a child. Throughout the year, 3,622 Palestinians were injured, but the majority of the casualties were during the Israeli aggression in April and May due to successive incursions into Jenin camp. The number of detainees was as high as 6,500 citizens in 2022, while 4,501 citizens were randomly shot.

In the West Bank, 266 houses were demolished, while 5 houses were completely demolished in the aerial bombardment during the Israeli assault on Gaza Strip in May 2022. Property destruction and confiscation cases were 792, while there were 10837 cases of tree destruction and uprooting, During the same period, 378 agricultural, industrial and commercial facilities were also demolished.

Throughout the year, 319 settlement activities were spotted and recorded, while the Israeli government built 15 settlement roads and confiscated more than 26 thousand dunums to build new settlement units. This year witnessed the approval of building 14,614 new settlement units, which is accompanied by leveling more than 6116 dunums of citizens' lands.

In addition, 333 cases of attacks on the holy places were recorded, while 171 citizens were expelled from Al-Aqsa Mosque, leaving the way open for “herds” of settlers to storm Al-Aqsa Mosque. Settlers' storming operations of the mosque escalated since the start of 2022, which witnessed the worst violations of Al-Aqsa Mosque from both the Israeli government and the extremist settlers. More than 33,351 settlers stormed the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque both in day and night periods with strict protection from the occupation police to perform public Talmudic prayers and rituals. The month of May witnessed the peak of these activities which included 10,468 settlers, under the pretext of Jewish holidays.

Throughout the year, the occupation forces have committed 441 violations against fishermen in Gaza at sea, during which they arrested 64 fishermen, including 8 children, injured 21 fishermen, including 3 children, and confiscated 23 boats. It is worth noting that the occupation forces “deliberately harm fishermen and deprive them from work, as they pursue and shoot them at sea, destroy their equipment and seize their boats.”

In addition to the daily violations that affect the workers of the West Bank, the year 2022 was the worst in terms of the increase in casualties and work injuries in the occupied territories, as the number of fatal injuries rose to 44, most of them were in the construction sector.

## **I. The Most Prominent Israeli Economic Violations**

### **Deductions from Clearance Funds**

**1.93 billion shekels are the total value of Israeli deductions from the Palestinian clearance funds during the first nine months of 2022.**

Settlements continue to act like lawn mower that eliminate all the foundations of establishing the desired Palestinian state and destroy all the pillars of the two-state solution, geographically and demographically. Adding insult to injury, the occupation authorities increased their piracy over the clearance funds, which are a sovereign Palestinian right as stipulated by several international agreements, most notably the "Paris Economic Protocol". All this occurs in the context of continuous incitement at the regional and international levels to stop financial and economic support for the Palestinian government in a way that exacerbates the living crisis of the Palestinian people, undermines the role of the Palestinian government, and limits its ability to fulfill its obligations at the services and development levels.

In 2022, Israel continued its unfair deductions from clearance funds, which negatively affected the ability of the Palestinian government to pay the salaries of employees or fulfill its obligations, including the arrears due to the private sector. While it has been a year since the crisis has worsened, reports of the Ministry of Finance indicated that the deficit until the end of the year amounted to 564 million dollars, which drove the government to resort to borrowing from local banks, which exacerbated the public debt crisis, which is approaching a historical record. The continuation of the clearance fund crisis, coupled with movements from the Ministry of Finance to ask for loans from Palestinian banks, led to an escalation of the public debt during the current year by 5.6%, according to official data. It is worth noting that the public debt figures do not include the value of arrears accumulated by successive Palestinian governments, which amount to 19.7 billion shekels until the end of last year.

## **Controlling Economic Resources And Its Effects On The Palestinian Economy**

The Israeli occupation continues to control 62% of the area of the West Bank, which is rich in economic resources, controlling 85% of the water resources, in addition to practicing other arbitrary measures on the ground. In the latest international report on the developments of the Palestinian economy, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) issued a report in September 2021 to clarify that the occupation is the cause of the economic dilemma of Palestine, and that ending the occupation is the only way to achieve sustainable development. The report unearthed that the losses of the Palestinian economy were estimated at about \$58 billion as a result of the Israeli blockade in the period from 2000 to 2019.

### **Israeli Obstacles To The Movement Of Goods (Import And Export, Raw Materials, Product Marketing)**

- The obstacles placed by the Israeli government against Palestinian goods contribute to increasing the cost. The cost of transportation from the port of Ashdod to Al-Mentar crossing, a distance which does not exceed 50 km, is ten times higher than the cost of transporting goods from China.
- The high cost of shipping at Israeli airports, where the cost of one kilogram of the Palestinian product is \$3, while the cost of Israeli product is less than two dollars per kilogram. In addition, Palestinian goods are left for long hours so that they may be vulnerable to damage or to lose its quality.
- Some local fresh herb packing centers, in order to preserve their fresh products and avoid spoilage, are forced to sell them to Israeli companies to avoid delays at the crossings, which leads to a decrease in the profit margin.
- Preventing the entry of raw materials needed in industrial processes under the pretext of dual use (such as acids, fertilizers, and chromium), which are used in food factories, precious metals, leather tanning and agriculture. This forces factory owners and farmers to use alternatives at a higher cost and this leads to lower quality in the final product.
- Preventing factory owners and merchants from transporting products to Israeli ports or merchants except through designated crossings, using only Israeli trucks. This forces factory owners to load and unload the goods more than once, which increases costs and exposes goods to damage.
- Delaying the entry of imported goods through ports, under the pretext of security checks, which causes losses to factories and importers.
- The Palestinian merchant must sign at all crossings a pledge that his goods will be sold only in the areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority, while the Israeli

merchant does not sign such a pledge, and therefore the area of sale for the Israeli merchant is bigger than that of the Palestinian.

- Palestinian freight staff are not allowed to track shipments directly inside Israeli ports and airports.
- The closure of crossings between Palestinian cities and the occupied interior, such as the Jalameh crossing, which remained closed for long periods, which led to a drop in sales by 70% in total, and the economic sectors were significantly affected.

### **Competition Of The Produce Of Settlements**

- The Palestinian market is very important for the marketing of Israeli products in general, and settlement products in particular. Figures and studies of the World Bank indicate that the exports of Israeli settlements to the Palestinian territories exceed \$500 million annually, and the areas occupied by Israel in 1967 (East Jerusalem, settlements, and the Golan Heights) represent about 4% of the Israeli GDP, 7.9% of public consumption, and 4.5% of the total Israeli investment.
- The products of Israeli settlements are not subject to any health control, in addition to that most of the products of the settlements bear fake trademarks of international brands and agencies to attract the Palestinian consumer.
- Facilitating the entry of settlement goods by the Israelis by giving them Israeli clearing invoices to market them within the governorate to compete with local product, especially with regard to the dates sector in Jericho and the Jordan Valley.

### **Closure, Demolition And Attacks On Economic Facilities**

The Israeli occupation authorities continued the policy of demolishing and closing facilities operating in various economic activities, including industry, agriculture, trade and services. This comes in addition to the escalation of settlers' attacks on property, including economic facilities, as more than 715 facilities were destroyed and closed in 2022, knowing that the largest part of these facilities is located in Jerusalem. More than 500 facilities were attacked by the occupation soldiers and herds of settlers, which resulted in direct economic losses in the millions of dollars.

## **II. Violations Against Palestinian Workers**

Palestinian labor within the Green Line, settlements, and industrial zones is one of the most important sectors in the Palestinian economy. However, workers of this sector are exposed to all sorts of oppression, discrimination, and violation of the rights stipulated in all international charters and agreements, and even in what the occupying state itself enacted in terms of laws and collective agreements, what it committed to in bilateral agreements. The occupation controls eleven crossings, which represents the worst forms of apartheid and it places dozens of permanent and temporary barriers, preventing the Palestinian worker from enjoying his/her natural right to access work freely and easily. This forces the Palestinian worker to go out to work several hours earlier than normal in order to reach work on time.

Israeli measures against Palestinian workers also contradict Article 25 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that every person has the right to an adequate standard of living to ensure the health and well-being of himself and his family, especially in terms of food, clothing, housing and medical care, and he has the right to have what secures his family in cases of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, or old age, among other circumstances beyond his control, which may make him lose his livelihood.

The occupation policies and measures led to a weak and fragile Palestinian economy, which affected the labor market significantly. Unemployment rates reached 25%, as there are about (378,500) unemployed, most of whom are young graduates. At the same time, poverty rates increased to reach about 30%, which made the Israeli labor market an obligatory option, as Palestinian statistics authorities and other statistical bodies indicate that the number of Palestinian labor force in the Israeli labor market reaches more than (204 thousand) workers, which constitutes (20%) of the size of the Palestinian labor force. The number of Palestinian workers working legally within the Green Line has reached (103 thousand) workers, 75% of whom work in the most dangerous construction sector, (15%) in the agricultural sector, and (10%) in the services and industry sector. There are Palestinian workers who hold various types of permits that are not work permits, and some of them work through sneaking through the openings in the separation wall, but they are exposed daily to various forms of exploitation and slavery by the brutal occupation and Israeli employers. This gets even worse after Israel disavowed the “Paris Economic Agreement” signed in 1994 as the



new labor system applied since 31.03.2021 excluded the Ministry of Labor from any role in this regard through establishing a direct relationship with the Palestinian workers.

### **Most Prominent Israeli Violations Are In Four Axes:**

#### **First Axis: Freedom Of Mobility Of Palestinian Workers And Their Access To Their Work Places In The Occupied Territories**

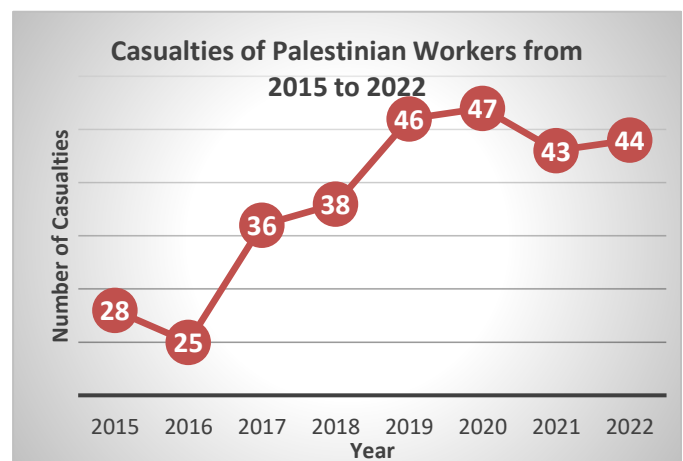
During their difficult and arduous daily journey to their workplaces, which begins in the very early morning hours (02.00 am), Palestinian workers are subjected to the worst types of humiliation and oppression at the permanent and contemporary checkpoints and the Israeli occupation crossings established along the



apartheid wall, including naked inspection and exposure to harmful rays, among many other violations and illegal practices at checkpoints and crossings of humiliation and oppression, which cost some workers their lives where they were shot dead.

#### **Second Axis: Israeli work environment and workplaces are not safe for Palestinian workers**

Israel is ranked high globally in terms of the number of work accidents and injuries in the construction sector due to the reluctance in the application of occupational health and safety requirements in its work environment. The vast majority of deaths and work injuries are always among Palestinian workers. In 2022, 44 deaths of



Palestinian workers and dozens of other injuries were monitored.

The Israeli government observer has announced in several annual reports issued in previous years that the government's policies and procedures have failed to address the phenomenon of the increase in fatal work accidents, especially in the construction sector, and that the lack of hiring a sufficient number of Israeli Ministry of Labor inspectors has led to a lack of Inspection field visits to construction workshops.

The barriers erected by the Israeli occupation army between Palestinian villages and cities, which limit labor mobility and the arrival of Palestinian workers to their workplaces at the specified time, force the Palestinian worker to wake up early (at 2:00 in the morning), and then taking farther routes to reach his work place. This costs him time, effort, and higher transportation fare, making the duration of one working day more than “15” hours. In addition to the waste of time, this negatively affects the occupational health and safety of the Palestinian worker, as well as the long hours the worker spends away from family, which forces the Palestinian workers to resort to staying overnight in workshops and construction places in very difficult conditions. It is worth noting that the Israeli employers refrain from providing them with a healthy and decent accommodation.

Israeli employers avoid giving Palestinian workers their full social rights, such as annual and sick leaves, recovery, holiday, clothing and travel allowances, among others, while they serve them. Later, they are deprived of end-of-service gratuity after their dismissal from work or when their work period ends. Furthermore, changing data in salary forms of Palestinian workers and recording less number of working days in the salary form deprive the Palestinian worker of health insurance services for him and his family members, because the Israeli employer recorded for him a number of working days less than “8” days, and then not recording the real salary of workers and other social rights. The reason for this is the Israeli Labor Law, which gives the right to the employer to disclose the number of working days and the rest of the other rights; in the event that the Palestinian worker objects this manipulation, he is dismissed from work immediately.

The Israeli employers escape treating their workers who are sick and/or injured. Instead of taking them to a hospital or clinic, they are taken to their places of residence, the nearest crossing, or they are even thrown on the side of the road. This was evident for the workers infected with Corona virus or suffering from work injuries so that they receive treatment in Palestinian government hospitals because they are denied to have

a work injury notification form. This is also due to lack of field visits from Israeli labor office inspectors to workshops and lack of any follow-up to professional health and safety procedures.

### **Third Axis: The phenomenon of brokers of work-permits and selling them in black market**

There is also the phenomenon of permit brokers who sell work permits on the black market to allow crossing into the occupied territories and therefore working in the Israeli labor market. The Palestinian worker is forced to purchase these permits for amounts ranging between 2500 and 3000 shekels/month (approximately 775 to 930 US \$) due to the large difference in wages in favor of the Israeli labor market. Some Israeli employers practice brokering and selling permits to Palestinian workers, as they have become permit dealers in the black market without any supervision or accountability by the Israeli side. The International Labor Organization estimates the total of the amounts that Palestinian workers lose at 1.2 billion shekels annually.

Linking work-permits to quotas approved by the occupation government forces Palestinian workers who are unable to obtain a legal work permit to enter through gaps or openings along the apartheid wall, or sewage and water pipes under the wall, or climbing the Apartheid Wall, which exposes them to the risk of falling and suffer serious injuries. Some of the workers seek to have permits of other types such as: special needs, trade, Wall or gates, and travel permits, among others. The number of these workers reaches 40 thousand, and the occupying state bears full responsibility for not organizing their work legally and depriving them of the most basic social rights guaranteed to them by law.

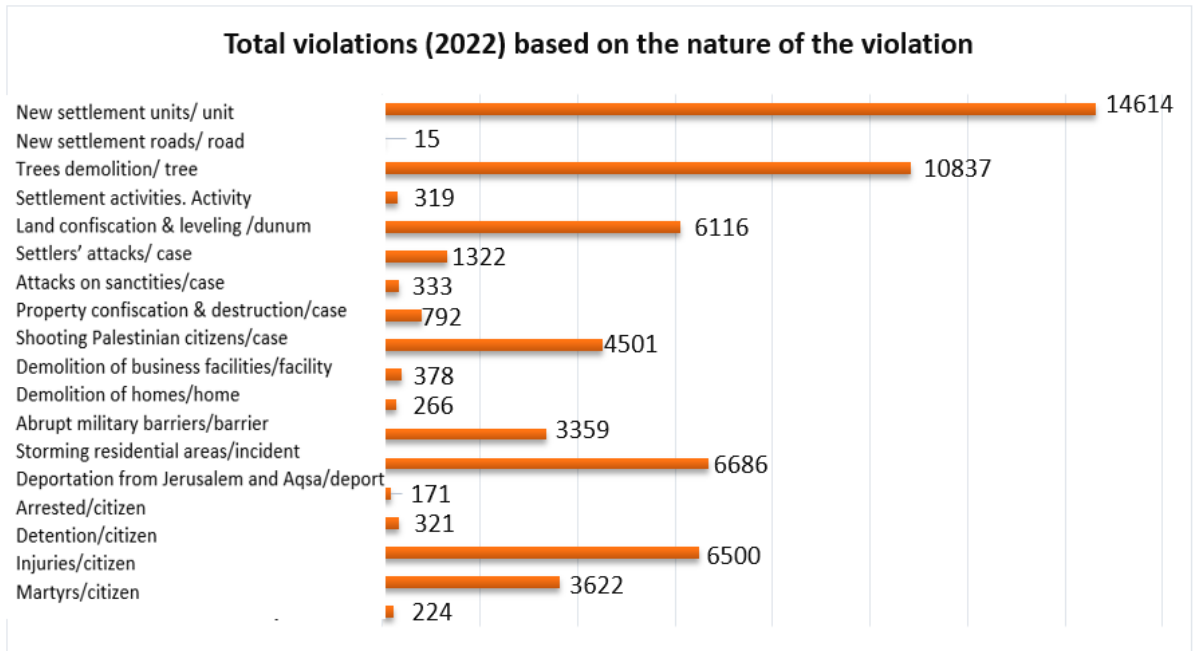
In addition, Palestinian workers within the Green Line do not enjoy unemployment insurance because they do not have a residency despite, they are forced to pay in an arbitrary manner what is known as equalization tax, imposed by the Israeli Payments Department. This is a supplementary fee to the national insurance fees, equating between the payments paid by Palestinian and Israeli workers. However, the Palestinian worker does not receive the insurance that his Israeli counterpart receives, including unemployment insurance.

#### **Fourth Axis: Piracy of accumulated social rights funds of Palestinian workers since 1970**

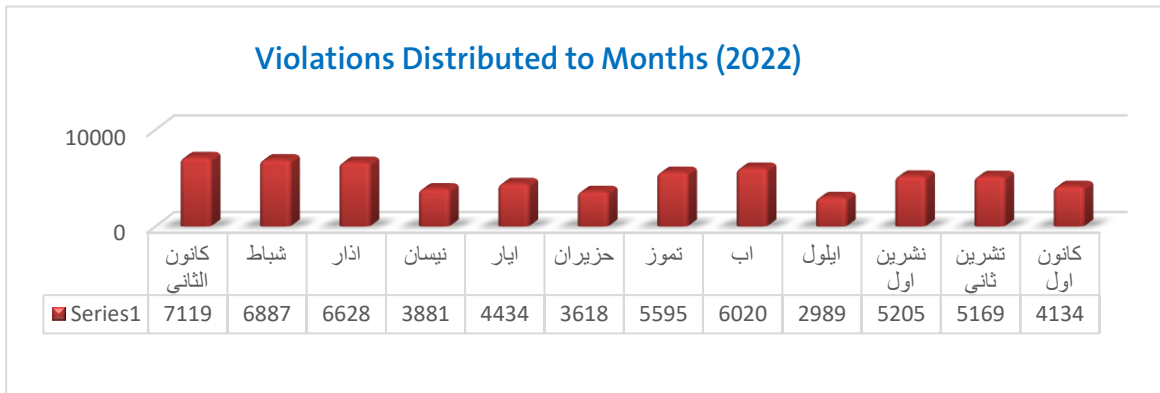
Israel is not committed to implementing the "Paris Economic Agreement" signed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides in 1994, including the item related to the establishment of the Palestinian Social Security Corporation (No. 19 of 2016) according to Article 40 of the Paris Agreement as a requirement for transferring these funds. Unfortunately, Israel still refuses to disclose the real value of the accumulated financial savings of workers since 1970, and it keeps holding the funds under false pretexts and arguments, in addition to its refusal to carry out its legal duty to transfer these financial dues to the social insurance institution. Thus, it defies the international community and its legal institutions, disregarding all international agreements signed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, and the international laws and covenants that guarantee these rights.

#### **III. Most Prominent Occupation Crimes And Violations**

The total violations carried out by the Israeli occupation forces and settlers against citizens and their properties during 2022 are 78,492 attacks, ranging from injuries, arrested or detained persons, attacks on sanctities or educational institutions, destruction of property, demolition of homes, agricultural, industrial and commercial facilities, confiscation and leveling of land, uprooting, burning and destruction of trees, in addition to closures, barriers and incursions.



The peak of the violations was in January 2022, which witnessed the highest violations (7119), including 1299 in Jerusalem.





## Most Prominent Occupation Crimes And Violations:

### 1- The Policy Of Direct Targeting Of The Palestinians:

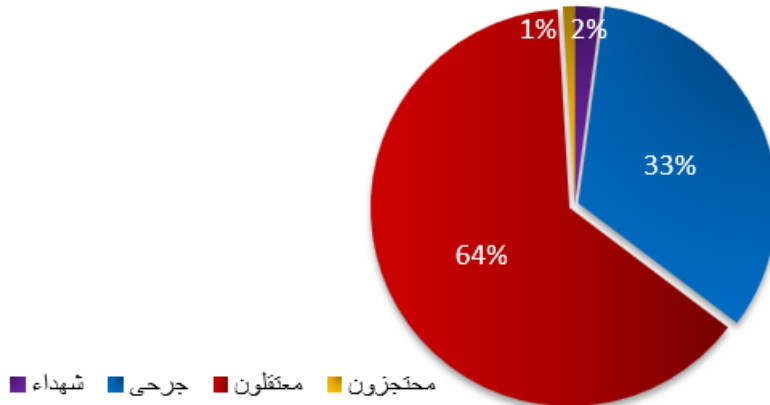
In addition to the destructive war on Gaza Strip, the occupation authorities and gangs of settlers have practiced a policy of direct targeting of the Palestinians with the intention of killing, injuring, or imprisoning. This destructive policy in 2022 resulted in the killing of 224 martyrs. The occupation continued to keep the



bodies of the martyrs in morgues while the number of deaths increases. The number of the martyrs from the West Bank is 171 and from Gaza is 53, most of whom were killed in the Israeli aggression against Gaza Strip in August 2022. The latest report issued by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Territories (OCHA) stated that when it is measured on a monthly average, 2022 was the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since the United Nations began systematically recording deaths in 2005.

Furthermore, the occupation forces injured 9,355 Palestinians, of whom 3,622 were injured by live and metal bullets. The forces did not distinguish between unarmed women and children, as everyone was in the targeting circle. The occupation forces detained 6500 citizens including children and women, putting them in Nazi-like prisons, while they continue to detain dozens of women and children, depriving them of the most basic human rights, in addition to detaining more than 321 citizens.

## Violations of direct targeting



Martyrs – Injured – Detained – Arrested

## 2- Demolition Of Homes And Facilities

Demolishing Palestinian homes constitutes an old Israeli methodology since the establishment of the occupying state in 1948. Since then, the Israeli authorities have destroyed more than 500 Palestinian villages and towns. The occupation forces continue the policy of demolition of Palestinian homes and facilities especially in areas of Jerusalem,



Jordan Valley, within the Wall and in areas C with the aim of emptying these areas of their residents to Judaize them to establish settlement outposts. The number of houses and facilities demolished by the occupation during this year reached 648 demolitions distributed between house demolitions (270), and demolitions of agricultural, industrial and commercial facilities (378), during which 715 facilities were demolished In the West Bank, including the city of Jerusalem. About 1,235 people and 430 children were affected as a result of this, and the demolitions caused the loss of millions of dollars and the loss of dozens of job opportunities and sources of livelihood.

Most of the demolitions were in Jerusalem governorate, as 118 demolition operations were carried out that left 178 destroyed facilities in the city of Jerusalem. Hebron governorate comes next, with 76 demolitions, which left 171 facilities, most of them are in vast areas that the occupation seeks to displace the residents and empty these areas for the interest of settlement projects.

In addition, there are the self-demolition operations, which are the worst types of oppression that affects Palestinians, specifically in the city of Jerusalem because of the bad psychological and economic effects it leaves on them, and its negative repercussions, not only on the owner of the house, but also on the family that suffers loss of home, displacement of family members, and destruction of their dreams and memories.

It is worth noting that there are 22000 to 25000 demolition decisions in Jerusalem alone. Implementation of these decisions means that 100000 Palestinian from Jerusalem would be expelled from the city.

### 3- Settlements

The Israeli government has continued its policy of settlement expansion, in line with the extremist religious background that the prime minister has proclaimed, which raises concern. Netanyahu and Ben Gvir agreed to legalize Jewish settlement outposts in the West Bank, and that this would further strengthen Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. This also tends to fuel



tensions with the Palestinians, as the rise of Ben Gvir and Smotrich, both of whom live in the settlements, will accelerate Israeli settlement that sprawls in the West Bank, bringing it closer to actual annexation.

This is the most dangerous policy pursued by the occupation authorities towards the Palestinian land. This policy is evident through dozens of government decisions and expansionist laws that give the right to extremist settlers to build settlement outposts, expand existing settlements, confiscate adjacent lands and build settlement roads. All these arbitrary and unjust measures aim at emptying the land of its inhabitants and pushing them towards immigration or moving to cities so that they become closed

ghettos controlled by the occupation gangs. To implement these policies, the occupation government allocates billions of dollars for the interest of settlement expansion annually; this year, settlements have grown three times compared to the past year, as 400 settlement bids were issued in Jerusalem only to build 3,100 new settlement units.

#### **4- Confiscation and leveling of land and demolition of properties**

The occupation authorities and settler gangs continued to target the Palestinian land by confiscation, closure and demolition of facilities, buildings, agricultural projects, animal pens, uprooting trees, destroying and vandalizing crops, and controlling water sources. The



occupation authorities and settler gangs confiscated 26508 dunums owned by Palestinians in the West Bank and levelled more than 3142 dunums of agricultural land, which resulted in uprooting more than 10,837 fruit trees that were cut, burned or destroyed, in addition to setting fire on houses and mosques, while there were dozens of stone-throwing operations on settlement roads. Water wells and tanks were also destroyed, irrigation networks and greenhouses were damaged in more than one location in the West Bank.

#### **The Apartheid Wall: Another Form Of Land Confiscation**

In the summer of 2002, Israel began building the Apartheid Wall in the occupied Palestinian territories. Despite Israel's claim that it is building this wall for security purposes, in reality it forms an integral part of the infrastructure designated for settlements. The separation wall surrounds the West Bank and penetrates its territory so that it includes most of the Israeli settlements and the settlers residing in them on the “Israeli” side of



the Wall. At the same time, it contributes to the seizure of vast areas of our territories in a way that guarantees that Israel expands these settlements in the future.

Therefore, this wall works to isolate us from our lands, which constitute our source of livelihood, and prevents our people from accessing educational institutions and social care centers, as well as deprives us of benefiting from our natural resources, especially water. Israel has completed the construction of most parts of the separation wall except for small sections that work on which has been halted due to lawsuits filed by citizens before the Israeli courts protesting the construction works. The areas seized by Israel for the construction of the apartheid wall, along with the lands that fall under the control of the Israeli settlements located to the east of the Wall and in the Jordan Valley shall leave for the Palestinians no more than 54% of the lands of the West Bank.

Considering that the route of the apartheid wall surrounds the existing illegal settlements and the areas where they will be expanded, it is clear that Israel aims to seize Palestinian lands through the construction of this wall, which does not constitute a security



measure as the wall does not separate the State of Israel from our lands. Instead, it separates the Palestinian citizens from one another.

This year, the occupation government agreed to build an additional 67 km of the wall, at a value of 360 million shekels. The plan includes building a "concrete" wall using all technological means, with a height of 9 meters. This covers three sites, and the aim of its construction is to increase the suffering and oppression of workers and citizens.



## 5- Judaization Of Jerusalem

### The Year 2022 Is Considered The Worst In Terms Of The Occupation's Violations Of Al-Aqsa Mosque, Because There Are More Than 50,000 Settlers Who Stormed The Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The occupation authorities are working to change the features of the Holy City, Judaizing it by all means, isolating it from its natural extension, and obliterating its identity, isolating it, and displacing the Palestinians. The year 2022 witnessed rapid developments and vigorous Israeli attempts to change the cultural, historical, and demographic face of the city. So, the occupation authorities harnessed all its capabilities to impose new realities on the ground and obliterate the City's Arab and Islamic identity in an attempt to make a status quo of Judaization. Dividing Al-Aqsa Mosque in terms of space and time and taking out a part of it to perform their Talmudic rituals has always been a Zionist goal and dream supported by all the occupation institutions.



Jerusalem governorate witnessed the death of 19 martyrs, the injury of 2,486 Jerusalemites, the storming of nearly 50,000 settlers to Al-Aqsa Mosque (Temple Mount), the arrest of 3,504 Jerusalemites, and the deportation of 871 citizens this year. This year also witnessed the continuation of the occupation policies of demolition of houses and facilities of the Palestinians, as this policy is an attempt to force them to leave their neighborhoods and to go out of the occupied Jerusalem, as part of the demographic Judaization path. The occupation authorities also demolished and bulldozed 306 houses that were carried out by the occupation or the owners of the

houses under severe pressures to avoid exorbitant fines, as homeowners are threatened



to charge them with the costs of demolition, which amount to tens of thousands of shekels. This exacerbates the sufferings the Palestinians who lose their houses and have to pay unaffordable huge amounts of money.

Violations in Al-Aqsa Mosque in 2022 came in light of dangerous and rapid developments that will lead to ignite a fuse of religious war in the region and the world. Tension in Al-Aqsa Mosque is exacerbated with the formation of the new far-right Israeli government led by Benjamin Netanyahu, as the cabinet includes some people with criminal records.

On January 25, 2022, the Israeli Knesset approved a number of legislations that attempted to enable the occupation prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to form an extreme right-wing government. The amendments to the Israeli government law granted the pro-colonial, religious Zionist party broad authority to build more Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank. A set of related laws were proposed in this context, and then presented to the Knesset. The government provided many incentives and facilities to the settlers.

The occupation authorities also renewed their attacks on Al- Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood since the beginning of the year. February witnessed the return of tension in the neighborhood after the extremist racist member of the Knesset, Itamar Ben Gvir, opened his office in a provocative way on the land of Salem family on the western side of the neighborhood, which ignited events. The neighborhood then was stormed on a daily basis, in a provocative manner, and he was accompanied by settlers, and amid the protection and intensive deployment of the occupation police. The residents of Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, their homes, and properties were subjected to repeated attacks by settlers and the Israeli occupation forces, within the framework of the continuous attempts to forcibly displace them and to seize their homes for the benefit of settlement associations.

## 6- The Blockade On Gaza Strip

The occupation authorities continue to close Gaza Strip almost completely by land, sea and air for more than fifteen years. This has a profound impact on the living conditions in the strip, as it undermines the unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and tears the economic and social fabric in it. This puts the Strip on the brink of collapse, as about two million citizens live in a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. With the continuation of attacks on citizens and their properties, and the eradication of every means to collect their daily sustenance, from war to

A brief statistical table about the violations committed by the occupation and their consequences during the first half of 2022	
52	Number of martyrs
360	Number of injuries
26	Number of incursions
225	Attacks in restricted areas
107	Number of detainees
18	Deaths due to restrictions

bombing, sniping, and non-stop closures, all these factors led to the destruction of the infrastructure such as roads, gas stations, and hospitals, among others. One of the most significant violations committed by the occupation in 2022 is the killing of 52 persons, injury of 113, and detention of 107 in 26 incursions by the occupation entity. In addition, there were 8 deaths due to restricting the freedom of movement and mobility of patients, which contradicts the requirement of accessibility adopted by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in its general comment on Article 12 related to the right to treatment.



Since the beginning of 2022, the occupation forces committed 441 violations against Palestinian fishermen in sea, arresting 64 fishermen, injuring 21 others, and confiscating 23 boats. The occupation forces deliberately harm the fishermen and deprive them of work, pursue them at sea, shoot at them, destroy their equipment, and seize their boats. The violations committed by the occupying forces at sea in an

organized manner, and the blockade it imposes on Gaza Strip, especially its naval blockade, constitute collective punishments that amount to war crimes.

## 7- Crimes Of The Occupation In Jordan Valley, Areas C And Areas Within The Wall

There are many methods used by the Israeli occupation to target the Palestinian Jordan Valley area in order to finally reach lands devoid of the Palestinian population, and the Bedouin communities in particular, which constitute the natural protection of the area. The Jordan Valley and the northern



Dead Sea areas are the largest land reserves for development in the West Bank. The occupation government announced in more than one occasion that it intends to annex the Palestinian Jordan Valley areas, which constitute about one third of the area of the West Bank. In the event that this happens, there is no possibility for the establishment of a Palestinian state. In order to achieve its goal, the occupation government continues the policy of confiscating lands, planting more settlement outposts, paving dozens of roads, and closing hundreds of dunums under the pretexts of military uses.

The occupation authorities also continue to confiscate natural resources, especially water reserves, and declare thousands of dunums as natural reserve areas, while the government established more than ten settlement outposts in the Tubas areas, seized large areas for



military training purposes, destroyed hundreds of greenhouses, and erected dozens of checkpoints. In addition, extremist groups of settlers began this year to fence off lands owned by Palestinians in the northern Jordan Valley, in the northeastern occupied West Bank, as a prelude to seizing them.

Furthermore, the occupation forces and settlers are escalating their attacks in the Jordan Valley against all Palestinians, including women, as the occupation forces are detaining women under false pretexts, as a continuation of the series of violations and

as a pressure exerted on citizens to deport them. Women are considered the most affected by the violations of the occupation and its arbitrary practices in the Jordan Valley. During demolitions and forced displacement, women are in a bad position, being the housewife and the person responsible for the needs of all family members. Women in the Jordan Valley suffer a number of violations, the most important of which is the lack of stability and peace as a result of continuous notifications and operations of demolitions as well as forced deportation attempts, which aggravates the psychological pressure. Women also suffer from a constant state of anxiety for their husbands and children while they go out to the pastures for fear of attacks by soldiers and settlers. In addition, women are always worried about the children while they go to school. This difficult and exceptional situation that women experience in many areas of the Jordan Valley due to the repeated expulsion to conduct military training, and all these psychological pressures and instability make life harder for the Palestinian woman.

## Appendix 1: Violations Classified By Type And Month In 2022.

Violation	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Martyrs	6	6	13	21	9	14	7	59	18	31	20	20	224
Injuries	154	309	211	577	458	180	139	574	200	258	160	412	3622
Detainees	476	465	635	907	569	477	383	670	486	518	583	331	6687
Arrested	44	32	52	33	24	18	11	14	25	25	16	27	116
Deported from AI- Aqsa	5	1	9	32	14	45	9	13	13	17	1	12	176
Storming residential areas	438	404	559	454	672	537	410	641	576	630	651	714	6602
Abrupt military blocks	213	227	246	285	361	195	207	294	279	355	386	311	3403
House demolition operations	22	28	10	2	27	19	11	58	13	27	26	23	270
Demolition of agricultural, industrial and business facilities	25	69	15	2	22	61	31	31	13	7	35	67	378
Shooting incidents at Palestinian citizens	258	276	325	560	436	300	262	296	333	565	325	565	3936
Demolition and confiscation of properties	57	45	48	57	80	112	68	56	61	34	80	94	1263
Aggressions on sanctities	23	22	26	33	28	26	22	34	27	29	29	34	333
Settlers' attacks	80	87	112	96	191	39	74	68	94	232	145	104	1247
Confiscation and leveling land/ dunum	858	2720	331	339	23K	0	0	820	0	616	200	232	28K
Settlement activities	5	7	12	4	7	8	15	18	0	145	11	87	232
Cutting, demolition or burning trees	940	570	725	217	1035	750	2145	560	150	1100	2500	145	10837
New settlement roads	2	1	3	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	3	15
Approval to new settlement units	3557	1500	3230	31	502	855	1811	1812	700	0	0	616	14614



**Appendix 2:**  
**Violations Against Workers Within The Green Line In 2022**  
**In Pictures:**



## **Section 2**

### **Effects of Israeli Settlements on the Social and Economic Conditions and the Labor Sector in the Occupied Territories in South Lebanon in 2022**

The Arab Labor Office has received a detailed report on the data available for the Lebanese Ministry of Labor on the conditions of labor and workers in the occupied territories in southern Lebanon and in the strip adjacent to the occupied Palestinian territories. **The report includes:**

- There is no doubt that Israel's occupation of Lebanese lands, namely Shebaa Farms and Kfar Shuba hills, negatively affects the investment of these lands, which are rich with natural and geographical features and water resources. Consequently, this affects the conditions of employers and workers in this occupied area.
- Shebaa farms is 200 km<sup>2</sup> (25 km in length and 8 km in width), and the area is best known for its rich plantations, due to the climatic diversity in the area such as grains of all kinds, fruit trees, vegetables, legumes, and forests of old trees such as oaks, mullaws and hawthorn. The area is also rich with pastures, olive presses, molasses, in addition to its historical monuments, wells and caves.
- The Israeli occupation of this area prevents land owners from using and investing their properties, such as cultivating the land and harvesting the crops, investing olive presses, establishing factories that make job opportunities available. This is blocked due to the repeated aggressions on the land, workers and peasants, while all types of intimidation are used
- The long occupation period did not allow the competent authorities to prepare economic feasibility studies for investing these lands through development projects, i.e., agricultural, industrial or tourism projects that can be interpreted into figures and financial returns.

Employment conditions in south Lebanon have been directly and negatively affected by the Israeli attacks, as well as by the constant threats of Israeli invasion. This prevents growth, affects building factories and businesses, and makes employers and workers in a state of permanent anxiety, as this disrupts their mobility and productivity. Furthermore, some areas in the south still suffer from mines and the internationally banned cluster bombs, which are estimated at one million bombs. The bombs spread over large areas in the south so that they annually claim dozens of victims of civilians and farmers, and halt work in thousands of dunums of agricultural land. No doubt that this negatively affects the agricultural sector in the region.

#### **Employment Status Can Be Summarized As Follows:**

Workers in the border area represent 29% of the residing population, and life expectancy in the region is 39 years, but it is 43 in certain areas.

Workers with primary school or below qualifications constitute 42% of the total actual workforce. The reason behind the lower educational levels is the high rate of school dropout during the occupation period. Other reasons include the compulsory recruitment for the majority of young people, who were forced to join Antoine Army to support the occupation, and the massive migration of those who are at the secondary or university education levels and those with professional specialties. It is worth noting that university graduates represent 11% of the workforce, while professionals represent 8%.

As for the relationship between work and kinship, we find that 73% of the illiterate are relatives to their employer, while it drops to 28% for those who are at a university level.

#### **The Private Sector Absorbs 46% Of The Workforce, Divided As Follows:**

- The unofficial sector absorbs 36% of the workforce.
- The public sector absorbs 17% of the workforce.
- The blended sector (public and private capital) absorbs 0.3% of the workforce.
- Private sector workers: peasants and skilled workers represent 25% of the work force, while 17% are tenants in private and economic facilities.
- 9% are transport and machinery drivers.
- 8% are craftsmen and miners.

#### **The Public Sector Absorbs 17% Of The Workforce, Divided As Follows:**

- 39% are public teachers.
- 15% are military personnel.
- 12% are workers in indirect services.
- 9% are employees in public administrations and municipalities.

#### **Workers In The Unofficial Sector Are Divided As Follows:**

- 28% are craftsmen and construction workers
- 15% are farmers and skilled workers in fishing and agriculture.
- 13% are wage earners in offices and economic and private establishments.
- 8% are transport and machinery drivers.

Meanwhile, 5% of the actual workforce are business owners of craft workshops employing less than 10 persons, 4% are wage earners and 5% are family members who help their families in agricultural work.

## **Unemployment:**

Unemployment rate ranges from 20 to 40%, as the variation is based on businesses and activities in each sector and the security situation. Unemployment has reached unprecedented rates, especially among women.

### **The Causes Of Unemployment In This Area Are:**

- The tense security situation.
- Dismissal from work.
- Business closure due to the deteriorating economic situation.
- Difficult and indecent working conditions.
- Low level of wages.

Inevitably, the difficult living conditions, lack of normal life in the villages and lack of adequate infrastructure for work affect both employers and workers alike. The most significant problems that the area suffers from are:

- Difficulty of mobility between villages due to the lack of local transportation because of the poor road networks.
- Repeated water cuts,
- Severe electricity rationing.
- Lack of marketing of agricultural products, especially olive oil.
- Lack of agricultural roads
- Lack of land plotting projects to determine the ownership of private real estate.
- Poor standard of the official school system.
- Lack of hospitals, dispensaries, and clinics; some villages on the borders do not have the minimum healthcare requirements.

In addition to what is mentioned in the introduction, the constant fear of Israeli attacks is the main reason that disrupts life in the occupied border areas. And this is a summary of what employers and workers suffer in the occupied Arab territories in south Lebanon.

## **Section 3**

### **Effects of Israeli Settlements on the Social and Economic Conditions and the Labor Sector in the Occupied Syrian Arab Golan in 2022**



Despite the campaigns of denunciation of what is happening in the Syrian Arab lands, Israel contemptuously defies the international community, violating all resolutions issued by international organizations and their affiliated bodies.

In light of the recent information and data available to us, the conditions of workers, business owners, and citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan during the year 2022, and the arbitrary practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against them, despite the difficult and dangerous conditions that Syria is witnessing in general, can be discussed as follows:

### **I. The Political Context: Reality Of The Occupation And Prospects For The Peace Process:**

The Israeli practices affecting human rights in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan during the period from May 2015 to date:

Israeli practices have always been described as absolutely hostile because it belongs to a number of arbitrary racist practices implemented by the occupation authorities against the people of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan since 1967, which contradict international laws and legislations. This is considered a flagrant violation of the rules of international humanitarian law, such as the four Geneva Conventions signed on 12th August 1949, the Hague 1907 Convention, the Charter of the United Nations, the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, and various international resolutions, declarations, charters, laws and agreements, especially the Charter of the International Labor Organization, the Philadelphia Declaration, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 on the protection of Civilians in Occupied Territories, the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Each time, the international community demands that Israel stop changing the urban character, demographic composition, institutional structure, and legal status of the Syrian Golan, and stop establishing settlements and imposing Israeli citizenship on citizens in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.

## **ii. Israeli Practices Against Workers, Employers, And Citizens In The Occupied Syrian Arab Golan:**

The Israeli Zionist entity, since the first day of the occupation in 1967, has been practicing a repressive and arbitrary policy against workers, as is the case with all other social sectors.

The authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan fought workers who work in factories and construction works through the chairman and members of the suspicious local councils who are appointed by the occupation authorities in every village, especially the workers who resist the occupation, unlike those who cooperate with the Israeli Zionist authorities.

### **This Aggressive Repressive Policy Covers Several Areas, Including:**

#### **1- The Field Of Culture And Education:**

- The authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity are destroying the antiquities of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan in order to falsify the archaeological and historical facts in an attempt to conceal and obliterate the Arab identity of the occupied Golan to Judaize it.
- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity imposed the Israeli educational curricula, making education in the Hebrew language, and forcing the students to learn the two subjects (Israeli Civics and Druze Heritage), which are not related to the history and civilization of the Arab people. This aims at severing the bonds of belonging to Arabism and Islam, and perpetuating sectarianism and national oppression to undermine the Arab and national character of our people in the Golan, and to expand Israel's aggressive policy.
- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity deliberately appointed unqualified teachers to implement the Israeli educational policy, while it refuses to accept the appointment of qualified teachers from Syrian university graduates who are highly qualified.
- The authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity dismissed and terminated the contracts of Syrian Arab teachers who teach history and Arabic literature to stir up the national feeling in the hearts of the students. This aims at controlling the progress of the educational process and directing the influence on the sense of national belonging to the motherland of Syria.
- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity obstruct the return of the people of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan to the motherland to pursue their university studies and put obstacles in front of the people of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan who graduated from Syrian universities in the motherland when they return to their villages to practice the disciplines they studied.

## **2- Communication With The Motherland**

The authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity are harassing the Syrian Arab citizens in order to isolate them from their Arab surroundings and their belonging to their motherland, Syria, **Through The Following Practices:**

- The Israeli Zionist entity's authorities carry out various practices against workers, farmers, and doctors to prevent them from going to the motherland to participate in trade union and scientific conferences.
- The authorities also prevent married men and women from the occupied Golan who studied in homeland from returning to their villages in the occupied Golan and prevent married women in the occupied Golan from visiting their families in the motherland.
- Trial of patriots from the occupied Golan who had previously visited the motherland on charges of (visiting an enemy country).
- Preventing the people of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan from crossing to and from the motherland through the Quneitra crossing, by providing the Zionist-Israeli entity with full support for the armed terrorist gangs to continue controlling the crossing.

## **3- Health care**

The five occupied Arab villages suffer from a severe shortage of health care centers and medical clinics. There is no hospital to serve the people of those villages so that performing any operation, even if it is simple, will force the citizen to go to the cities inside Palestine such as Nazareth, Safed or Jerusalem, which incurs exorbitant expenses as a result. The suffering continues due to the lack of first aid centers, the lack of doctors and specialized medical clinics, knowing that the citizen in the occupied Golan is subject to the sick fund tax, and the hospital and health centers tax that do not even exist. The authorities of the Zionist entity put obstacles to citizens in opening laboratories and some clinics with the aim of linking the Syrian citizens to occupied Palestine, subjugating them and undermining their steadfastness.

## **4- Prisoners Of War And Detainees**

- The authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity arrest citizens in the occupied Golan on false charges and under various pretexts such as: (non-compliance to instructions - refusal to participate in a demonstration against the regime in Syria - giving information to an enemy country - contacting agents...etc.)
- The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity also conduct medical experiments on Arab detainees and then neglect them, considering them as terrorists or criminals, but not detainees. The Israeli military intelligence practices the most heinous types of physical and psychological torture against prisoners and detainees from the occupied Golan to force them to confess to what they did not commit. One of the used methods is to inject the bodies of prisoners with pathological (viruses) that may kill them or infect them with incurable diseases and permanent disabilities, not to mention the difficulties and

obstacles imposed by the authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity on the families of prisoners when they visit their relatives in the prisons of the Israeli enemy, far from their places of residence.

### **5- Minefields And Burial Of Nuclear Waste In The Syrian Arab Golan**

- The authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity continue to plant and renew minefields in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, as the number of mines ranges between 2 to 3 million mines, which have claimed the lives of many innocent citizens. The number of victims from Israeli mines in the occupied Golan has reached 532, among them are “202” martyrs and “329” who suffer permanent disabilities, most of whom are children. Recently, the Israeli Zionist authorities are producing mobile mines that move through the wind and rain, and there is another section that is controlled remotely with the aim of terrorizing the Syrian Arab population to force them to flee from their villages and lands and leave them to the settlers and the occupation forces.
- The forces of the Israeli Zionist entity buried large amounts of nuclear waste (in about 20 sites) in the occupied Golan, including (Nashba al-Muqabilah - Qasr Shabib - Marj al-Manna, etc.), and also mined the ceasefire line in the occupied Golan with nuclear mines that contain tactical, neutron, radioactive and explosive materials called (David's Castles), which led to an outbreak of cancer among the population there due to the emissions of buried nuclear waste.
- Soil analyses in the occupied villages of the Golan confirmed that it contains a large amount of atomic radiation, and the radioactive (Ronfin) that Israel uses as agricultural fertilizers, which leads to the leakage of this pollutant into the groundwater with the aim of poisoning the Syrian Arab citizens.

### **6- Exploiting The Treasures Of Golan**

- The average total revenue of the Israeli industry in the occupied Syrian Golan is approximately 8 million dollars, and agriculture is more than 1 billion dollars annually, as well as tourism, for the number of visitors to the Golan exceeds more than 2 million visitors per year as they go to sports centers and ski centers In the foothills of Mount Hermon, the sulfur water pools in the Syrian Hemmat, dozens of restaurants and hotels, including the huge Thai restaurant, the American Crocodile Park, the Howard and Johnson hotels, the Golan cheese and dairy factories in Katzrin, and the facilities of the "Kor and Tel Dor" companies and the "Eden Springer" mineral water company. There are also dozens of industrial laboratories and facilities dedicated to the production of advanced technology, plastic, chemical, food, cement, steel, and petroleum products, as well as tanning, metallurgical and military industries, in addition to fruit and olive presses. There are also industrial and agricultural technology centers, wood factories, bottled water, mills, textiles, paper industries, teaching aids, cow farms and breeding

them for milk and meat, potato and fruit farms. etc. All of this has stimulated activity in the tourism movement towards the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.

- The Israeli Ministry of Energy and Water took advantage of the crisis in Syria and resumed the exploration process for oil, minerals, gas and antiquities in lands belonging to the Syrian citizens who were deported from their villages and lands through forging ownership documents, considering that the ownership of those lands belonged to Jews since the period before the occupation. Machines of the (Genie Energy) company, which is owned by the former Minister of Infrastructures (Avi Eitam), began exploration work, and Eitam stated that Israel needs approximately 300 thousand barrels of oil per day, and he will work through his company to secure part of it from the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.
- The authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity focus on establishing a project for power generation stations by investing in the continuous wind movement in establishing and expanding a project for a field of wind turbines over the occupied Syrian Arab Golan.
- Linking the economy of the Golan villages to the Israeli economy, attempting to make it totally dependent on the Israeli companies.

### **III. The Percentage Of Taxes And Deductions Imposed On Syrian Arab Workers And Those Working In Agriculture By The Occupation Authorities And The Types Of These Taxes:**

The authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity pursued a tax policy that the Syrian Arabs in the occupied Golan could not bear, as it imposed a labor tax on Syrian workers ranging between 7 and 35% of the output of daily or permanent work, while not exempting them from the so-called income tax, which amounts to about " 25% of the net income. Therefore, the tax rate on the labor force amounted to about "55%" of the general income, and a 30% tax on contractors. For owners of refrigerators and apple showrooms, a rate estimated according to the profits are decided for income tax. This prompted Syrian workers to work according to what is known as the overtime system for a period of three continuous hours of work, as their Jewish counterparts work six and a half hours a day and are not subject to the taxes that we referred to previously. This constitutes a blatant plunder of the money of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Golan. The tax rates are temperamental, as the authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity allow Syrian citizens to open light factories such as household appliances, detergents, soap, and other agricultural businesses, and impose exorbitant taxes on them.

The Israeli occupation authorities also set the limits and borders of the villages, as the enemy recently set a regulatory belt for the inhabited villages of the Golan and prevented any citizen from building outside this belt. Building permits are not given except with the approval of the local council appointed by the Israeli authorities after paying exorbitant fees and taxes on each permit.

The authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity also sell real estate and property originally belonging to Syrian citizens who were deported from their villages, such as the villages of (Jabata Al-Zayt - Baniyas - Zaoura - Ain Fit - Wasit), promising those

who respond to these offers to have building permits and loans and the best services. The main goal of this is to create disputes between families and neighbors, who will inevitably return to their lands and homes upon the evacuation of this colonial entity.

It is worth noting that all types of tax mentioned above are classified in the General Tax Law, but it exceeds the law by up to 25%, given that the Syrian Arab citizen is in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, especially workers who are not covered by the so-called compulsory service. for Israeli citizens.

At the same time, the people of the occupied Golan do not benefit from the aids provided by global and local financial funds for what Israel calls (residents of the border areas). Therefore, the difference between the income of the Jewish settler and the income of the Syrian Arab worker becomes vast, i.e. more than 70%, taking into account that the Jewish settler is exempted from taxes and does not perform the work that the Syrian worker is forced to do.

#### **IV. Social insurance, compensation and health leave for the Arab worker compared to the Israeli worker:**

The Israeli Zionist entity authorities refuse to pay or deliver hospitalization compensations to workers with permanent or partial injuries, who need health care, especially because of work injuries, as they are not covered by the compensation law, and under the pretext that they received medical treatment in private clinics for doctors from the Golan who graduated in Syrian universities.

#### **V. Work that workers in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan are allowed to practice:**

According to the Israeli applicable procedures with regard to Syrian Arab workers, these workers are classified as "third-class workers" after Jewish and foreign workers. This racist classification allowed the authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity and the various employers to exploit the labor force (the Syrian worker) in the Israeli work sectors that the Jewish or foreign worker refuses or cannot perform. Most of those jobs are classified in Israel as "hard and dirty work, which is a racist Zionist term. These jobs are designated for the Arab minority, including, but not limited to:

1. Iron works such as portering, fabrication and installation, especially in dangerous workshops and projects.
2. Manual excavation, cutting and transporting rocks to places where machines cannot be used.
3. Work in dyeing, paints and industrial oils factories, as well as in factories for spinning materials, most of which cause cancerous diseases.
4. Work in military fortifications near or surrounded by minefields, some of which repeatedly explode, causing deaths among Syrian workers.
5. Work in construction, especially in Israeli settlements and colonies, and this includes, of course, various professions (electricity - blacksmithing - carpentry - tiling – painting, etc.)
6. Work in the field of general mechanics and machinery services.



## VI. Land confiscation, water stealing, and restrictions on agricultural production:

The policy of annexation of lands and natural resources in the occupied Golan continues for the benefit of the occupiers. The Israeli exploitation of the occupied lands in the Syrian Golan coincided with the operations of confiscating, stealing and exploiting water. The majority of the Golan lands that were exploited by the authorities of the Zionist-Israeli entity during the past years are arable lands that were cultivated by Syrian Arab citizens before 1967.

**The Israeli Zionist entity authorities adopted several methods to confiscate them, the most prominent of which are:**

- Confiscating the lands of the displaced and deported people, considering them the property of the state under the pretext of the absence of their owners, and confiscating public lands owned by the population in general, for example, public lands in the village of Masada.
- Confiscation of land near the ceasefire line and planting it with mines.
- Confiscating lands to establish camps and military sites and paving roads in lands far from the ceasefire line.
- Confiscating lands for the construction of settlements and the agricultural and industrial facilities.
- Fencing a lot of lands under the pretext of placing them at the disposal of the Nature Protection Authority (the total area of these lands is estimated at about 100,000 dunums).
- The Israeli enemy forces continue to advance their equipment into the occupied Syrian Arab Golan near the cease-fire line with the aim of bulldozing soil and transporting it into occupied Palestine, and uprooting trees in the area between the barbed wire and the cease-fire line.
- As for the water sources, the policy of the Israeli Zionist entity authorities continues to deny the Syrian citizens in the occupied villages from benefiting from the water resources available in those villages. They have destroyed a large number of surface dams and reservoirs that the Syrian citizens had built, as they are prevented from digging wells and building storage tanks for rain and snow water. They are also denied exploiting the waters of Lake Masada, at a time when its waters were stolen by diverting the waters of the lake to the Israeli settlements in the occupied Golan. Meanwhile, the Israeli Zionist entity authorities are digging many wells for the benefit of the settlements, which led to a decrease in the groundwater level.

The authorities of the Zionist Israeli entity deliberately reduce the prices of apples, impose exorbitant fees and taxes on their transportation and marketing, and seek to obstruct the process of shipping them to the motherland with the aim of pressuring and harming farmers, noting that the apple crop is the main product in the occupied Syrian villages of the Golan.

## **VII. The total number of Israeli settlements and the number of settlements recently established or expanded in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan:**

The frenzied Zionist Judaization and settlement campaigns throughout the occupied Arab lands coincide with the implementation of the Israeli plan that has started years ago to implement a settlement plan according to which Jewish settlement in the occupied Syrian lands will be encouraged and established within the next three years, provided that nine new settlements are established and added to the 32 existing settlements (registered with the Israeli Ministry of Interior). This tends to settle 200 Jewish families every year in the occupied Golan.

Right now, Israeli authorities consider how to increase the number of settlers in the Golan Heights to 50,000 in the short term, and they tend to remove all barriers to achieve this goal.

Four years ago, and as part of the plan to strengthen the "Jewish settlement" in the Golan Heights, the Zionist-Israeli authorities had announced the start of settlement expansion over new lands with an area of 80 dunums in Al-Bateha area, south of the occupied Golan, at the junction of the Jordanian-Syrian-Palestinian border, in order to build a tourist village in "Tal al-Sayadin" area on the eastern coast of Lake Tiberias in Kursi area of the occupied Syrian territories.

The unjust Zionist settlement campaign is currently witnessing a great momentum in construction, which it has not witnessed for many years, as it recently recorded a rise of more than 400% in the purchase of settlement apartments in the occupied Golan Heights.

The result of this is that the unjust Judaization operations over the occupied Golan lands have reached the limits of establishing (46) settlement sites, i.e., a colony, the nucleus of a colony, and a colonial site, from Al-Nahal colonies, the collective agricultural and industrial kibbutzim, the moshav cooperative colonies, and the religious colonies.

It is also reported that the government of the Israeli Zionist entity approved in one of its meetings a five-year settlement plan to develop large areas of unused agricultural land in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, which will be allocated to Jewish farmers in the region. The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity seek through this settlement plan to develop agriculture in the Golan, where "750" new agricultural settlement facilities will be inaugurated during the next four years. The Israeli Zionist entity authorities will spend about "400" million shekels (115 million US dollars) on this plan, which tends to extending water networks and removing mines between these areas and a Hebrew site. In the framework of this plan, about 30,000 dunums of land will be rehabilitated for agriculture near the current settlement blocs in the occupied Golan, with the removal of some minefields in an area of about 10,000 dunums. This expansion will be exploited to create new job opportunities for settlers, and to encourage tourism and agriculture.

The site also quoted the head of the Golan Settlements Council (Eli Malka) as saying that this plan will allow them to receive hundreds of new Jewish families of young

people who will form the second generation of the Israeli settlement project in the occupied Golan.

### **VIII. Child labor rate in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan:**

The authorities of the Israeli Zionist entity in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan focus their efforts on the use of child labor, for two main purposes:

- A. Cheap child labor wages
- B. To strip the children of their society and attempt to mix them into the cheap labor market while they are young to complete the scheme of Judaization and integration. Therefore, according to divergent numerical and statistical data conducted by some interested parties in the occupied Golan, the percentage of child labor under the age of seventeen has reached more than 60% of the workforce.

This, of course, led to a large percentage of dropout from primary and preparatory schools, while the dropout rate from those schools has reached more than 20%, which prevails high rates of ignorance among the younger generations.

Therefore, child labor has been an occupation approach to prevail ignorance among younger Arab generations and cutting off their relation with their communities, and by proxy the motherland. It was also reported in local statistics that the crime rate among the younger generations, i.e., child workers, reached record rates that contributed to the spread of using and trading drugs, which helped in diverging the society from its customs and traditions, so that it becomes a hybrid society consisting of a culture derived from the past and a distorted culture imposed by the reality of the occupation and the policy of Judaization.

It is worth mentioning that the Israeli occupation laws prohibit child labor for Jews.