

occupied Palestinian territory 2018 (part of 2018-2020 HRP)

Appealing Agency	YESH DIN - VOLUNTEERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (YESH DIN)
Project Title	Addressing the Culture of Impunity within Israel's Security Forces Personnel
Project Code	OPT-18/P-HR-RL/116222
Sector/Cluster	Protection
Refugee project	No
Objectives	<p>In this project, Yesh Din volunteers and professional staff provide assistance to Palestinian victims of criminal offenses committed by Israeli soldiers and police officers. To date, Yesh Din has provided legal aid to Palestinian victims in approximately 600 cases of Israel Security Forces Personnel (ISFP) offenses. In 2016, about 16% of testimonies collected were given by Palestinian women and complaints were submitted by women in about 8% of ISFP offenses. Yesh Din continues to identify ways in which to encourage Palestinian women to give testimony and complain when offenses are committed by ISFP, while also recognizing the challenges faced by Palestinian women in doing so</p> <p>According to Yesh Din data and data we received through Freedom of Information requests since 2010, only 3% of the criminal investigations launched by the Military Police Criminal Investigations Division into alleged offenses against Palestinians resulted in the indictment of suspects. Yesh Din seeks to identify and address, through legal and public advocacy, systemic failures in the military administrative and judicial procedures that stand in the way of access to justice for Palestinians. Yesh Din monitors progress in the improvement of Israel's mechanisms for examining and investigating complaints and claims of violations of the laws of armed conflict as laid out in the Turkel report.</p>
Beneficiaries	Total: 967
Implementing Partners	N/A
Project Duration	Jan 2018 - Dec 2018
Current Funds Requested	\$250,000
Location	Projects covering just West Bank
Priority / Category	NOT SPECIFIED
Gender Marker Code	2a - The project is designed to contribute significantly to gender equality
Contact Details	Sharona Weiss, sharona@yesh-din.org, +972-54-9170868
Cash transfer programming	<p>Is any part of this project cash transfer programming (including vouchers)? No</p> <p>Conditionality:</p> <p>Restrictions:</p> <p>Estimated percentage of project requirements to be used for cash/vouchers: 0</p>

Needs

Forcible Entries by ISFP into Palestinian Homes:

By the end of 2017, Yesh Din is commencing a new project with Physicians for Human Rights Israel and Breaking the Silence which will challenge the continued human rights violations stemming from Forcible Home Entries (FHEs) committed, often arbitrarily, by Israel's Security Forces Personnel in the West Bank. In this project, we are placing a particular emphasis on the effects that FHEs have on Palestinian women and children, who are uniquely vulnerable to the effects of these traumatic encounters, potentially affecting many aspects of life – children and families' emotional well-being and the decreased confidence in security or law enforcement.

FHEs are not a new phenomenon, yet rights holders have been reporting an increase in this practice in recent years. Widespread practice of FHEs results in violations of Palestinians' rights to privacy and security of home, health, dignity as well as freedom from degrading treatment. We have identified the need to jointly challenge forcible entries of Palestinian homes as one of the most harmful and frequent practices in the reality of Palestinians in the West Bank.

Two main, interrelated problems have been identified by the partners regarding FHEs by ISFP. The relative frequency of FHE has detrimental effects on mental health, in particular for women and children, coupled with a lack of policies limiting such practices. The current legal framework governing IDF practices in the West Bank provides few, if any, conditions required prior to the forcible entry of Palestinian homes and the military justice system grants nearly complete impunity for Israeli security forces personnel and their conduct in such instances. This leaves Palestinian civilians throughout the West Bank – protected persons according to IHL – exposed and vulnerable with no option for redress when Israeli security forces forcibly enter their homes.

Monitoring implementation of military justice reforms / Turkel recommendations:

In the upcoming years, Yesh Din will continue to focus on the introduction of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Criminal Law (ICL) concepts to domestic law which the GOI has claimed to be implementing based on the Turkel Commission's recommendations. This government-appointed commission was charged with examining Israel's mechanisms for investigating complaints and claims of violations of the laws of armed conflict according to international law. The Turkel report largely echoed the findings presented over the years by Yesh Din and other human rights groups in Israel and the OPT. The commission's 18 recommendations are directed at various agencies. Yesh Din maintains that implementation of the Turkel Commission's recommendations, if adopted in full and to the letter, would create meaningful and positive change in Israeli military justice. Thorough reform of the investigations system could contribute significantly towards its independence, effectiveness, and capacity to arrive at the truth and bring Israel up to par with regulations of IHL and ICL. Monitoring progress and implementation is particularly important given the increase in deadly incidents and the GOI's efforts to demonstrate it is determined.

Yesh Din has begun to collect gender desegregated data and forms have been adjusted to collect sex-disaggregated data. Yesh Din's female Palestinian field researcher, added to the team in 2014, is reaching out to Palestinian women and reflecting feedback and observations into concrete action, such as holding trainings and workshops for Palestinian women, in order to assess their specific needs and working to improve Palestinian women's access to justice. Her work seeks to mitigate the effects of the problematic situation a Palestinian woman faces in seeking out male-dominated Israeli police or military police assistance, and to maintain ties to Palestinian organizations focusing on women.

Activities or outputs

Field Work:

- Training of volunteers, the majority of whom are women, in taking testimonies, with a focus on the sensitivities involved in collecting testimonies from women, as well as accompanying victims and monitoring trials
- On-going training of Yesh Din staff and volunteers on gender analysis in context of violent offenses and law enforcement
- Daily communication, information and visits by field teams. For offenses involving women victims, these field teams include either a female volunteer (most of Yesh Din's volunteers are women) or our female field researcher, who heads up Yesh Din's workshops for women and response to incidents involving women
- Taking testimonies and recording on database
- Accompanying victims to file complaints when necessary

Legal advocacy:

- Complaints/notifications filed through Yesh Din with Military Police and other relevant authorities
- Monitoring investigations; correspondence with authorities
- Reviewing cases closed and monitoring those not investigated by military justice authorities. Appealing decisions to close investigations on a case-by-case basis.
- Monitoring progress of criminal trials and treatment of victims, with a special focus on women and children who are victims of such offenses
- Filing petitions to High Court of Justice on specific cases and principled matters

Research:

- Preparation and submission of Freedom of Information requests
- Analysis of patterns, including the gender impact of violations; policy recommendations elaborated; production of research report and periodic datasheets based on data collected in field and through Fol requests

Advocacy and Communications:

- Outreach efforts including press releases, meetings with journalists, Op-eds; online and social media (Facebook, Twitter,), online campaigns. In all outreach, Yesh Din will seek to adhere to gender sensitive approaches in order to achieve maximum impact in a way that also considers women.
- Network-building; exchange of information with international organisations; influencing public discourse
- Outreach efforts highlighting principles and standards of IHL and ICL - including exchanges with military prosecution bodies, press releases, meetings with journalists and international advocacy
- Research on International Humanitarian Law and International Criminal Law and adoption into domestic law

Indicators and targets

1a. Palestinian victims – including women and offenses involving children - of crimes committed by ISFP in the West Bank are able to file their complaints, get legal representation and can follow the investigations conducted by the Military Police Criminal Investigation Department or the Police Internal Investigations Department.

1b. Palestinian testimonies reflect impact of ISFP offences on women and children; gender disaggregated data collected

2. Systemic flaws in investigative mechanisms, training and operational procedures exposed

3. Advocacy on integration of IHL and ICL in domestic penal code of Israel will increase awareness amongst the Israeli military and soldiers, Israeli political leadership and Israeli public that principles of IHL and ICL are relevant as long as occupation continues

4. Issue of impunity of ISFP in cases of offences committed against Palestinians in the West Bank and in Jerusalem remains on international agenda and in discussions between GOI and foreign government representatives. Increased international awareness on systemic impact of law enforcement failure for Palestinian communities and the human rights situation in the West Bank and in Jerusalem, including approaching the subject with a gender analysis perspective..

Indicator	Project target
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Yesh Din - Volunteers for Human Rights(Yesh Din)	
Original BUDGET items	\$
Project manager/Executive Director	23,167
Field Researchers (4)	47,764
Volunteer Coordinator	16,188
Research (2)/Information Coordinator(1)	30,119
Media Director (1) / New Media Coordinator (1) International Advocacy (2)	53,829
Legal Actions	55,600
Admin Costs	23,333
Total	250,000

Yesh Din - Volunteers for Human Rights(Yesh Din)	
Current BUDGET items	\$
Project manager/Executive Director	23,167
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