

SETTLER VIOLENCE AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS ENDANGER THE OLIVE HARVEST IN PALESTINE

THE OLIVE HARVEST SEASON IS ESSENTIAL FOR PALESTINIANS' LIVELIHOODS AND THE PALESTINIAN ECONOMY

25%

OF THE GROSS AGRICULTURAL INCOME IN PALESTINE IS FROM THE OLIVE OIL SECTOR

15,000

TONNES NATIONAL CONSUMPTION OF OLIVE OIL PER AVERAGE YEAR

100,000

FAMILIES DEPEND ON THE OLIVE HARVEST TO LIVE

5,000

TONNES OF OLIVE OIL ARE EXPORTED EVERY YEAR

\$148 MLN

VALUE OF THE OLIVE OIL SECTOR IN PALESTINE

900 KM²

OLIVE CULTIVATION, WITH LARGE CONCENTRATION IN AREA C (60% OF THE WEST BANK)

HOWEVER EVERY YEAR PALESTINIANS STRUGGLE TO HARVEST THEIR OLIVES BECAUSE OF VIOLENT ATTACKS BY ISRAELI SETTLERS



from 1st October to 9th November 2020

AT LEAST 120 FARMERS HAVE BEEN ATTACKED WHILE PICKING THEIR OLIVES

MORE THAN 2025 VANDALIZED TREES, INCLUDING:



at least

314 olive trees

contaminated by sewage water

Data includes reported incidents, whereas the actual incidents may be higher



more than

926 olive trees

burnt by fire



at least

785 olive trees

damaged, cut or uprooted



crops stolen from at least

804 olive trees

ACCESS RESTRICTION IN THE WEST BANK

IS ALSO A MAJOR OBSTACLE FOR THE OLIVE HARVEST

40 KM²
OF OLIVE TREES ARE LOCATED IN
THE SEAM ZONE

The "Seam Zone" (10% of the West Bank) is the area located between the Wall and the green line, which has been declared closed by an Israeli military order.

THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIANS LIVING IN THESE CLOSED AREAS, OR NEEDING ACCESS FOR AGRICULTURAL USE, REQUIRE SPECIFIC PERMITS TO ACCESS THIS ZONE. THE NUMBER OF PERMITS GRANTED IS SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASING EACH YEAR.

84% of requested permits to access the seam zone in 2020 were rejected (Jan – June 2020) compared to 62% in 2019

PALESTINIAN LANDOWNERS MUST GET

PRIOR COORDINATION

TO ACCESS THEIR LAND IN AREA C IN THE VICINITY OF SETTLEMENTS, OUTPOSTS OR MILITARY ZONES.

106 plots for olive cultivation are in "prior coordination areas"

across the West Bank, adjacent to 250 illegal settlements and outposts. The 106 plots represent at least 18 km².

An estimated 133 days of work a year are necessary to adequately maintain an olive grove.

On average, farmers are granted access during the harvest and ploughing season,

for a period lasting from 1 to 7 days.

Limited access undermines agricultural activity and olive oil production, and negatively affects both quality and quantity of production.

