

# SETTLER VIOLENCE AND ACCESS RESTRICTION YEARLY ENDANGER 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**

EXCESS OF OLIVE OIL ARE EXPORTED EVERY YEAR

**\$148 MLN**

VALUE OF THE OLIVE OIL SECTOR IN PALESTINE

**900 KM<sup>2</sup>**

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 1 October – 30 November 2021

AT LEAST 298 FARMERS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY ATTACKS, AND MORE THAN 16 WERE INJURED WHILE PICKING THEIR OLIVES

**MORE THAN 3,900 VANDALIZED TREES, INCLUDING:**



at least

**794 olive trees**

uprooted



more than

**201 olive trees**

burnt by fire



at least

**1,040 olive trees**

Damaged or cut



crops stolen from at least

**1,821 olive trees**

Data includes reported incidents whereas the actual number of incidents may be higher

ACCESS RESTRICTION IN THE WEST BANK IS ALSO A MAJOR OBSTACLE FOR THE OLIVE HARVEST

**40 KM<sup>2</sup>**  
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.

**73%** of requested permits to access the seam zone in 2020 were rejected (Jan – December 2020) compared to %63 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 km<sup>2</sup>.

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.

