

The background image shows a group of children in a conflict zone. In the foreground, two young girls in school uniforms are running. One girl has a red backpack with a heart on it. In the background, a man in a red shirt is running, and a soldier in full combat gear is partially visible on the right. The scene is set in front of a building with a metal gate.

CPT-Palestine *Emergency report*

Incidents From August –
September 2021

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01 Introduction

The new semester of 2021 started in-person, which means that school students in H2 are once again walking to school by crossing the Israeli military checkpoints.

Since the beginning of this new semester, there has been an increase of violence by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) against children when they cross the checkpoints. Soldiers have increased their use of tear gas and stun grenades during the morning and the afternoon periods when children are starting and finishing class.

CPT members have been present on the ground and have witnessed the increased violence. This Urgent Incidents report contains all incidents documented by CPT from 16 August - 19 September 2021.



02

School-related Incidents



16 August: This was the first day of school in Palestine. Israeli soldiers shot teargas into one of the schoolyards as a response to stone-throwing at the checkpoint. The students were forced to retreat inside the buildings since they were unable to breathe and were terrified.



30 August: A Border Police officer slapped 13-year-old Muntaser Abu Rumaila across the face. His crime was passing the checkpoint to school early in the morning. When CPT asked him what happened, he said, "I went to school early to play a football game. I entered the checkpoint with my school bag, and the soldiers stopped me for a search. When the soldier finished, he told me to get out. I replied, 'You don't have to say it like this. You can just tell me I am allowed to leave.'"

02

School-related Incidents



So as I was leaving, he slapped me across the face with all his force.” When soldiers have unlimited power, they will use it to abuse children, as shown with this incident.

14 September: Israeli occupation forces shot a massive amount of teargas into several schools in the Hebron\Al Khalil H2 area.

After students threw a few stones at Qitoun checkpoint, ten heavily armed Border Police left the checkpoint and shot dozens of stun grenades and rubber bullets, as well as over one hundred teargas canisters throughout the whole neighborhood, most of which were shot into houses and schools.

24 September: Israeli soldiers shot teargas grenades at the children after a couple of stones were thrown at Salaymeh checkpoint in Hebron/Khalil H2.

02

School-related Incidents

An Israeli soldier asked a child to stand in front of him so he would be able to hide. After a few minutes of stopping the student, the soldier allowed him to leave.

Soldiers raided Palestinian houses and stopped children and cars in order to protect themselves from stones, hiding behind Palestinians and using them as human shields.

5 October: Israeli occupation forces shot teargas in the al-Salaymeh neighborhood when a few boys threw stones. The soldiers tried to arrest four boys, some of whom were in their homes. They also shot a teargas canister that injured a 15-year-old boy. While he was bleeding, they arrested him and beat him. After a while the ambulance came to give aid, which the medical team conducted on the spot because the soldiers did not permit the child to leave.

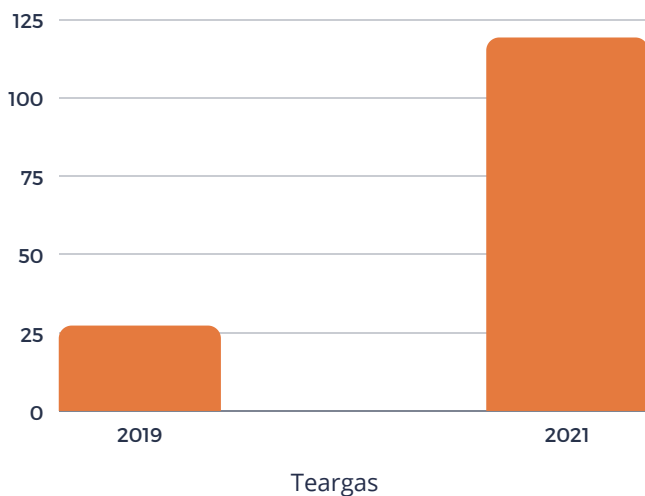




03 Statistics:

In the period of school monitoring, from mid-August until October, more than 119 teargas canisters were thrown by Israeli soldiers at Palestinian students and community members. This amounts to approximately 2.5 teargas canisters thrown per day. While in 2019, within same period of time, 30 teargas canisters were thrown, which means 0.6 teargas canisters per day.

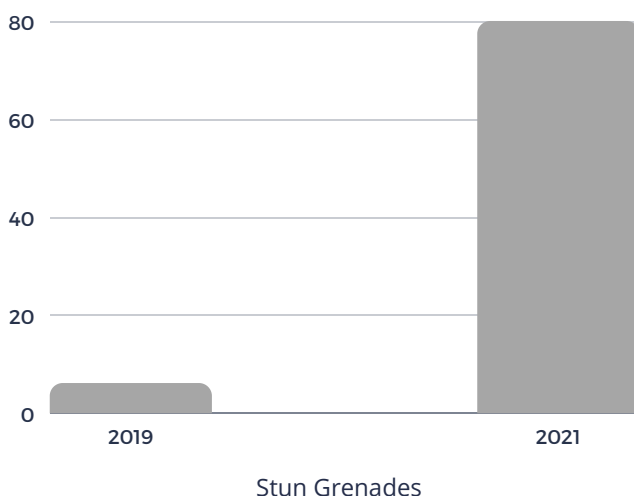
August & September



03 Statistics:

CPT teams also observed how many stun grenades were thrown by soldiers. We found that 80 stun grenades were thrown between August and October, which is approximately 1.7 per day. While in 2019, numbers are much lesser where 6 stun grenades were thrown, which is approximately 0.1 per day.

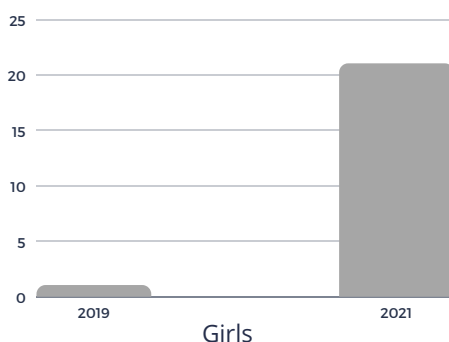
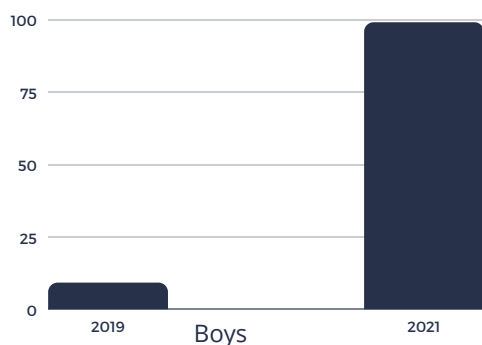
August & September



03 Statistics:

The number of bag checks also highly increased in 2021. Ninety-nine boys were subject to bag checks during these two months, which is approximately 1.9 per day. Whereas, in the same period of 2019, the total number of bag checks for boys was nine, which means 0.2 checks per day. Girls also suffered from bag checks, experiencing 21 bags in 2021 and one in 2019, which reflects a daily rate of 0.4 and 0.02 respectively.

August & September



In conclusion, violence has increased significantly in the H2 area in 2021. This is due to many reasons. The most important one was that the Golani Brigade is now stationed in the area. CPT observed through our presence and work on the ground that soldiers and Border Police became more aggressive toward children, students, local residents, and human right observers. This calls for more attention and action from human rights organizations in the area; we ask humanitarian organizations to strengthen and increase their work in H2.

04

Incidents Outside School Monitoring

From the beginning of September, the violence and the inappropriate attitudes of soldiers and Border Police have increased in Al-Khalil\Hebron H2 area and Bab al-Zawiyeh.

2 September: A Golani soldier cursed people at Bab al-Baladiyeh and detained a Palestinian in the Al-Sahla area, close to the Ibrahimi Mosque. After that, a settler provoked him and then the soldiers transferred him to an unknown location.

6 September: Occupation soldiers arrested two Palestinian youths, after assaulting them in the Al-Sahla area in the vicinity of the Ibrahimi Mosque. They were taken to an unknown location and we have no information about them to this day.

7 September: The Israeli occupation forces and settlers attacked a Palestinian family, including a 17-year-old boy, on Shuhada Street near the Ibrahimi mosque.



By: Ameerah Al-Rajabi

"I don't want to leave. If every time the army comes out of the checkpoint we have to close our shops, we'll sit at home and die of hunger on the bed." The words from a vegetable salesman beside the Tal Rumaideh checkpoint in Al-Khalil/Hebron echoed down the empty street after the soldier ordered him to close his small shop and head home on Israeli Sukkot Holiday.

Around 9:30 a.m., a military vehicle filled with a large number of soldiers entered Wadi Al-Tufah Street, one of the city's most important streets. The soldiers took their positions, closing the street and emptying it of Palestinians, to allow settlers to pass safely and comfortably to the cemetery down the road as part of Jewish holiday rituals.

Just because you're Palestinian, you are prohibited from exercising your legitimate right to walk down the street regardless of your age, or the reason you're passing the checkpoint, crossing the street, or even whether you were walking by foot or in a car.

Most people are able to work and earn money to enjoy their lives and save some for their future. But for most Palestinians, the occupation restricts their movement to their livelihood so their income just covers their basic needs. As a result, whatever they earn doesn't cover leisure activities, or for some, even their basic needs.

he law and do not deal humanely with the other.

And as a Palestinian child or youth, you're not allowed to run around, play on your bike, or go buy things from a shop down the street. You're only allowed to stand and wait on the other side of the street watching the settlers pass by.

September is one of the most difficult months for Palestinians. It's a month in which Israelis celebrate three holidays within 13 days and the street is completely closed to Palestinians twice for more than six hours at a time. It means increased military presence as settlers invade Hebron and heightened threats against Palestinians in the H2 area from soldier and settler violence. Families are subject to settlers throwing stones at their homes, or on the occasion you leave your house, potentially getting beaten, insulted, and prevented from passing through the checkpoint or streets that are part of the Jewish faith.

These holidays are therefore full of violence, restrictions, gas bombs, sound bombs, and arrests.

The reason behind religious holidays is to remind people of love, tolerance, and peace among human beings so that people connect spiritually with themselves and God. What happens in Hebron though is never that. The holidays in Palestine mean violence, tension, and constant fear because the forces at play do not respect the law and do not deal humanely with the other.

Imagine your life were controlled by an unjust occupation, and your right to exercise your normal routine is a conditional decision from the powers that be, closing doors and opening them on a whim. And then imagine that the right to object to this injustice is also forbidden!





CPT- PALESTINE



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