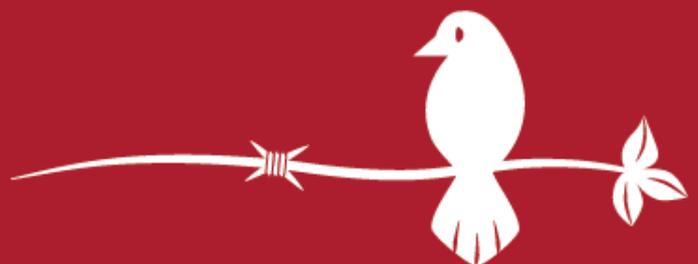


**SEMESTER
SCHOOL
REPORT
AUG. 2021
JAN. 2022**



community peacemaker teams

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1. INTRODUCTION



CPT provides regular presence at three Israeli military checkpoints in Hebron/Al Khalil: Qitoun Checkpoint (209), Salaymeh Checkpoint (29), and Mafia Checkpoint, near the Saraya kindergarten. Eleven schools, three kindergartens, and a medical center are located in the old city in proximity to the checkpoints where CPT monitors. The specific violations recorded during this semester include bag searches, teacher ID checks, detention, and the use of force. This report is based on data gathered over the fall semester between 16 August 2021 to 15 January 2022.

CPT mainly monitored two checkpoints, Qitoun (209), and Salaymeh (29), in the morning and afternoon based on the capacity of the team.

Teachers and students faced many challenges this semester. In a conversation with the principal of the Al Ibrahim school, he noted that “this year was hard on different levels.”

Israeli checkpoints are the main form of oppression against teachers, students, and human rights observers who are forced to cross them several times per day.

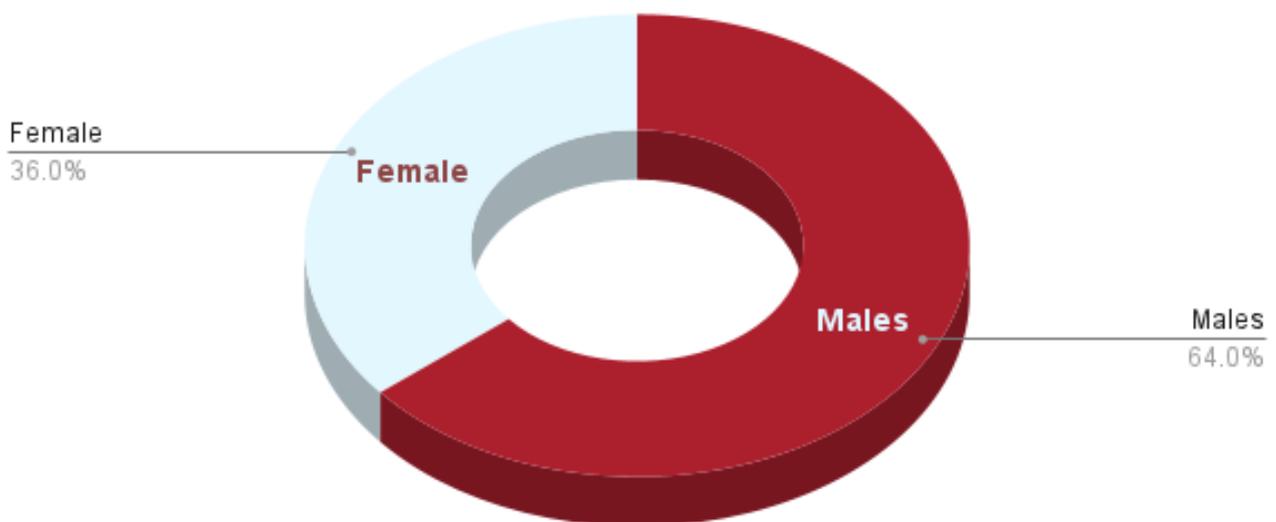
The use of direct force from the Israeli military increased during this semester, especially during the Golani brigade service in Hebron. Based on the data collected during this reporting period, CPT witnessed an increased use of violence against school students and continued violation of the rights of Palestinian children and adults.



2.CHECKPOINT STATISTICS

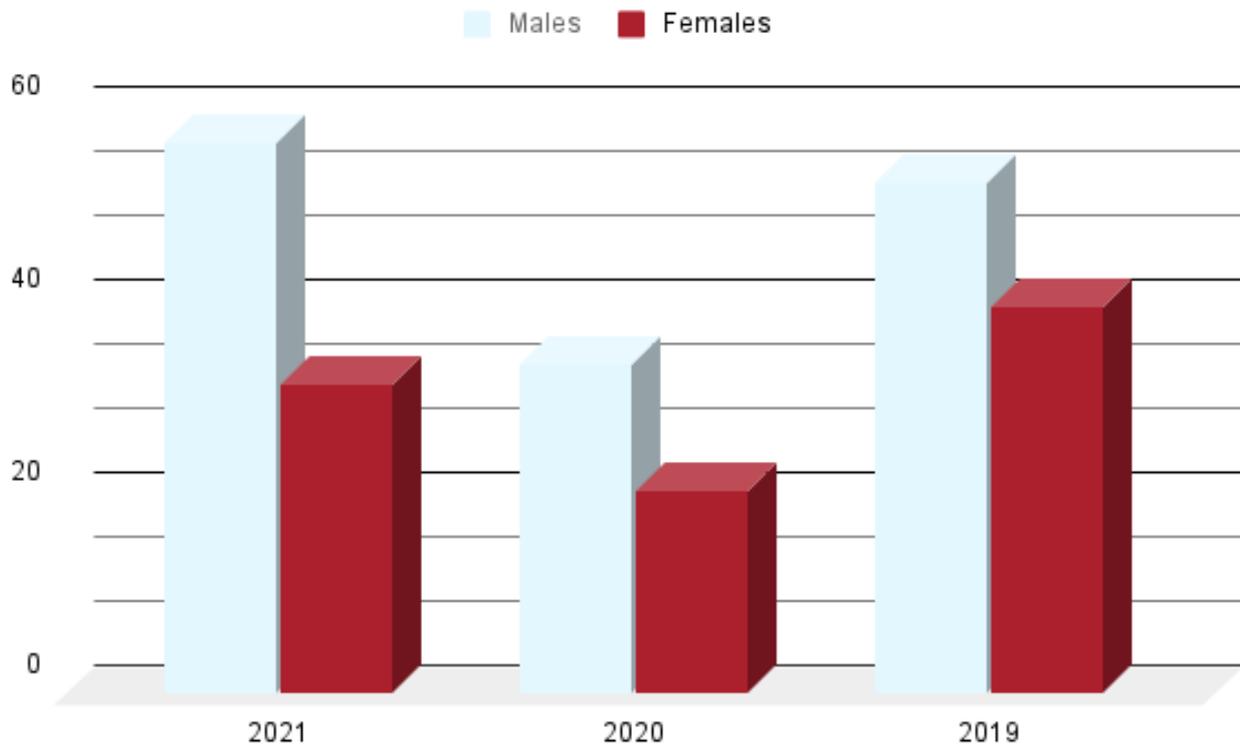
Based on documentation from CPT presence at Qitoun Checkpoint (209) and Salaymeh Checkpoint (160) from August 2021 to January 2022, on average a total of 57 boys and 32 girls cross the checkpoints daily. The graphic below illustrates the numbers.

Number of students based on gender



Comparing those numbers with the same semester last year shows that students have passed the checkpoint more than the previous year. This correlates with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, where most of the semester was held online. That is why numbers this year increased. In all of 2020, the number of boys were 34 and 21 for girls, while in fall 2019 the number of boys were 53 and for 40 girls. This means numbers increased back to normal this year. The graphic illustrates the numbers.

Number of students in full for the last three years

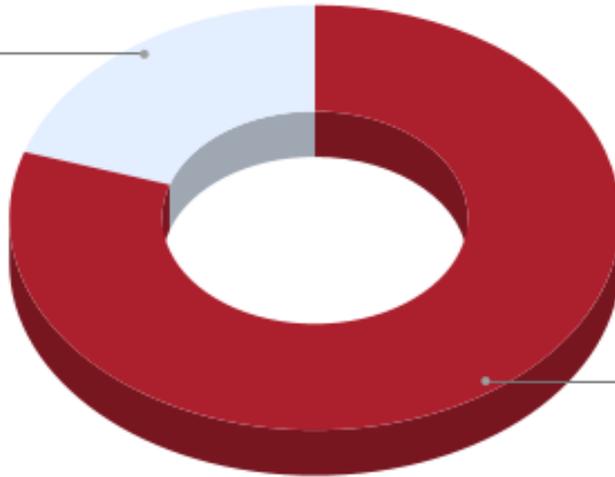


During this same time period, the average number of teachers who cross the checkpoints daily is one female and four male teachers. Also, the statistics show the number of other adults, on average, who cross the checkpoints daily are nine females and 27 males. The graphic below illustrates the numbers.

Comparing those numbers with the same semester last year shows an increase in the average number of male teachers from 70% to 80%. This is due to the teachers returning to in-person classes after having been primarily online and that most of the schools in the area we monitor are boys' schools. Lastly, we noted that some of the female teachers go through different checkpoints where we are not monitoring, like the Alharam Checkpoint. Please note there was no significant change in the numbers of other adults who passed the checkpoint between this year and the last year. You can check the full report for 2020/2021 [here](#) and our emergency report [here](#).

THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF TEACHERS WHO PASS THE CHECKPOINT (DAILY) BASED ON GENDER

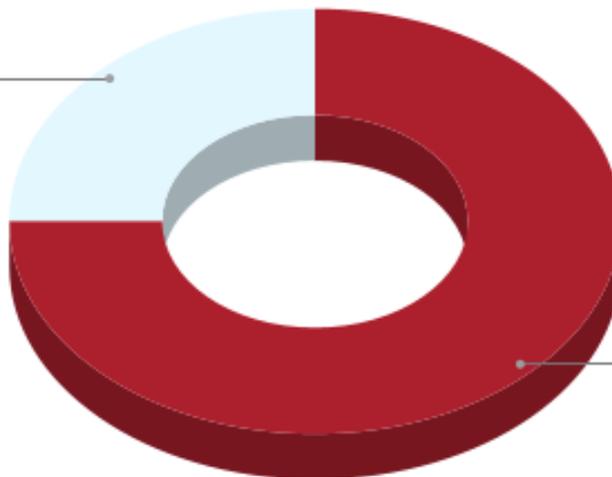
Female
20.0%



Male
80.0%

THE NUMBER OF OTHER ADULTS WHO PASS THE CHECKPOINT

Female
25.0%



Male
75.0%

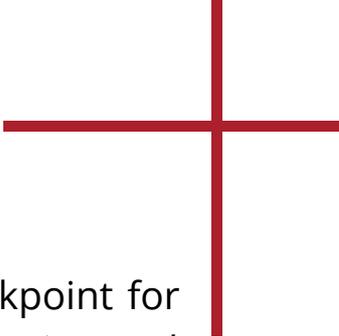
I encourage you to take part in one of the CPT- Palestine [delegations](#) to experience and understand what Palestinians are going through.

3. CHILD ARREST



Each year, approximately 500-700 Palestinian children, some as young as 12 years old, are detained and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system. The most common charge is stone-throwing, according to statistics from the [Defense for Children International - Palestine](#).

CPT observers documented 174 children between 10 and 17 years of age that were stopped when they passed through the military checkpoints to and from school and 12 child arrests in the H2 area during the last semester.



In one incident, CPT members were at the Salaymeh checkpoint for regular observation when three soldiers exited the checkpoint and headed towards children in the streets.

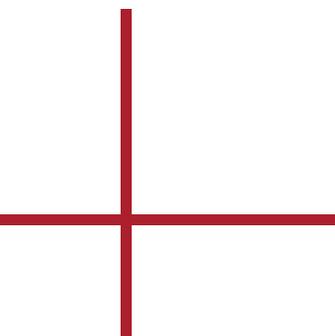
The boys were provoked and started throwing stones at the checkpoint. Two other soldiers came out, stood at the intersection of the schools, started smiling and taunting the children and running behind them.

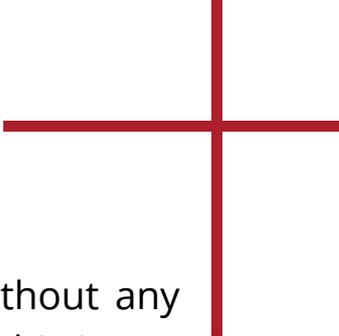
They remained at the intersection for more than half an hour. A stone was thrown out of a window, so the soldiers raced to grab a child who was standing by the window. They brutally detained him, while the child screamed with fear, "I'm not the one who threw it, it wasn't me!"

The child's uncle and neighbors tried to remove him from the soldier's grip, and his mother was finally able to push the soldiers from her house and closed the door.

The soldiers returned to the intersection and fired tear gas and sound bombs. They kept chasing after the children and managed to grab three others. The community was able to release them, but then the soldiers caught 15-year-old M.B. They dropped a bomb on his hand which started bleeding. They grabbed him and kept hitting him, while he kept screaming, "my hand is bleeding!"

They continued beating him until they arrived at the checkpoint where they held him for more than two hours. His father and brother kept trying to get him out and the soldiers promised they would release the child, but in the end they took him to jail and he was tried and sentenced to six months.





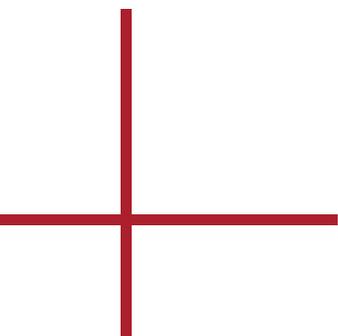
They arrested a child and sentenced him to six months without any evidence that he threw stones. Even if he did throw stones, this is not a reason for a child to be beaten and imprisoned for six months with the harshest form of physical and psychological torture.

And when you ask the reason for the arrest, Israel's answer is contrary to the law; so what laws are they talking about? Why is it that only the Israeli military is aware of these laws and is forcibly enforcing them?

The only law that has been signed and must be applied is the law adopted by the United Nations Assembly in 1989. ["The Convention on the Rights of the Child,"](#) whose purpose is to safeguard the rights of Palestinian children, removing when possible the risk of disease, intimidation, and inhuman treatment. However, the Israeli occupation has never hesitated to violate this Convention. Starting with Article 1, which states that a child is any human being under 18 years of age, but Israel considers Palestinians under 16 years of age to be children. This does not stop them from being unethical to any human being of any age. Every Palestinian of any age is subject to arrest, imprisonment, beating, and murder.

Another example in ["The Convention on the Rights of the Child,"](#) is Article 37, which guarantees State parties full protection of children, even in the case of detention, free from physical or psychological harm. Strict conditions exist in the case of the detention of the child, which are violated on a daily basis by the Israeli occupation.

In our observation, any arrest under the occupation of Palestine is an inhumane act that does not respect laws or humanity.





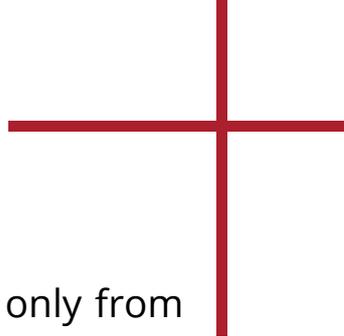
4. SOLDIERS AND SETTLERS VIOLENCE

Every morning, students in H2 in Hebron/Al-Khalil must pass through one to three checkpoints in order to reach their school. The journey begins with the Mosque checkpoint and ends with the Al-Salaymeh Checkpoint (160) or Qitoun Checkpoint (209).

Sometimes CPT observes parents walking with their children to cross through the checkpoints. Other parents accompany their children all the way to school themselves to ensure their child's safety while they walk to and from school and to decrease their child's interaction with the soldiers and avoid provocation to throw stones.

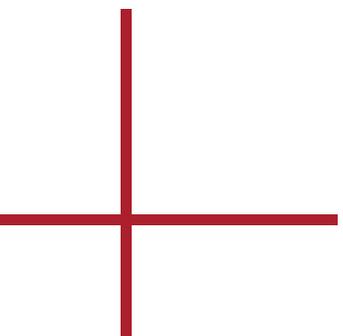
How and why do soldiers provoke children?

Soldiers at the checkpoints conduct bag checks inside, but they also leave the checkpoints to patrol the streets where the schools are located. They curse, yell, and point their weapons toward the children, and they close the checkpoints without notice, causing children to be late for school. In response to this provocation, some children throw stones in the soldiers' direction. The soldiers then respond by throwing tear gas canisters and sound bombs at the children and chasing them trying to arrest them. There is no justification for this level of violence.



The provocation of Palestinian schoolchildren does not come only from the soldiers; it also comes from the settlers. A settler named Ofer comes regularly to the Al-Salaymeh Checkpoint (160) to provoke the children by filming them and taking pictures of them.

Ofer's presence does not only provoke the children to throw the stones but also the soldiers will close the checkpoint and enter the street where the schools are located, causing more volatility to the situation. When Ofer comes, the soldiers become angry and the children become afraid, running to pass through the checkpoint quickly.



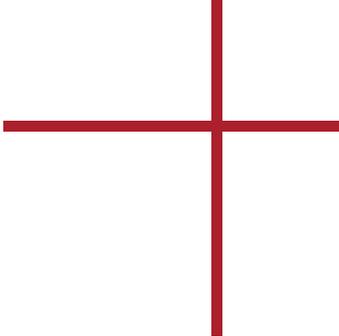
5. COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

BY: AHMAD ABU MUNSHAR



Do you understand me now?

While CPT was monitoring a checkpoint, a soldier approached, letting us know that he would not open the checkpoint until students stopped throwing stones at the checkpoint. He then followed with the question: do you understand me now? I said no, as he closed the checkpoint in front of ambitious workers and dreamer students.

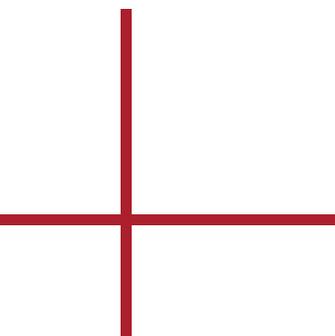


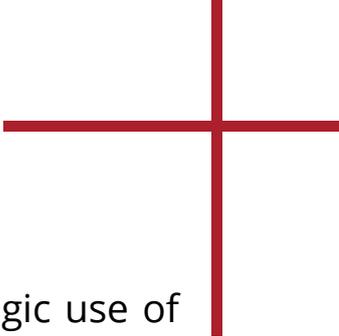
Indirectly, he was asking me if I understood why he is punishing all of us—Palestinians of course—who have to pass the checkpoint to continue fighting to achieve our goals and make our dreams come true in the future.

If you live or work in the H2 area of Hebron/Al Khalil, you will undoubtedly be frustrated by checkpoints. Especially when soldiers close a checkpoint as collective punishment, which is decided depending on the soldier's mood. As a result of this arbitrary decision, you will be late for work, school, or an appointment with a friend because of the closure.

Collective punishment is a way to maximize the oppression of a group of people. Soldiers on duty in Hebron/Al Khalil oppress individuals, but when we look at the whole picture, the number of Palestinians far surpasses the number of Israel soldiers who serve in the military, comprised of nearly 170,000 active soldiers according to [TRT World](#). Palestinian residents in the West Bank only reach over three million, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics ([PCBS](#)). That is why they need a strategy to cover and control every Palestinian.

Soldiers use several different strategies to oppress Palestinians. For example, they humiliate and beat Palestinians, raid homes at any time of day or night, and use methods such as collective punishment to achieve their purpose. Collective punishment forces Palestinians to act as the military chooses. Moving to another place or another country would be more preferable than learning to obey them.

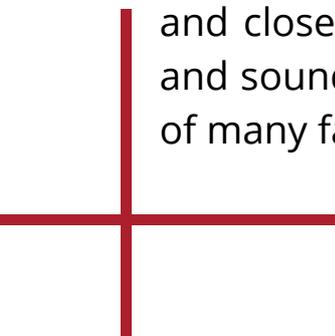




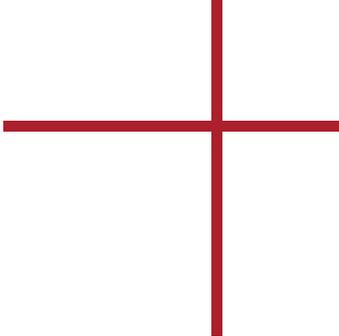
During regular checkpoint monitoring, CPT noted the strategic use of collective punishment. The Israeli occupying forces closed the checkpoint innumerable times, preventing students from getting to school and adults from work. Soldiers will close it for an average of 30 minutes, depending on their mood. Sometimes they close checkpoints multiple times per day.

The process of the collective punishment that CPT has observed starts with closing the checkpoints and not allowing people or vehicles to move. After that, soldiers tell Palestinians that they must stop the children from throwing stones; they use Palestinians to indirectly help them with the occupation. If Palestinians do not respond to their orders, they carry out collective punishment, forcing them to suffer for something they did not do.

As an example, we offer a retelling of the events of 22 November 2021. The army was delaying people at Al-Salaymeh Checkpoint (160), and then they closed it for almost 40 minutes without any given reason. People were waiting for the army to open the checkpoint so they could go to school and work. The same story repeated itself on 13 December 2021. The soldiers closed Al-Salaymeh Checkpoint (160) from 12:35 pm to 1:03 pm and delayed four women, five men, and 15 children. They opened the checkpoint, allowing those waiting to cross, and then they closed the checkpoint again from 1:13 pm to 1:33 pm.

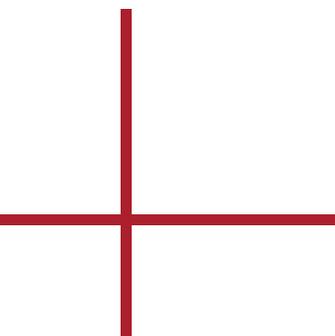


As military brigades change their stations in Hebron/Al Khalil, they employ this strategy in different ways. The [Golani Brigade](#) served in the H2 area between August and November 2021. Golani has been the most aggressive brigade observed by CPT over the two years. They used collective punishment more than other brigades; they delayed and closed the checkpoints countless times, and they threw tear gas and sound bombs in residential and school areas, affecting the health of many families and children.



The Nahal Brigade occupied H2 after the Golani Brigade. They were less aggressive compared to Golani, but they maintained the collective punishment strategy, which affects society on many levels, such as the economy, mental health, education, etc.

They used this strategy everywhere, including against worshippers on their way to pray at Ibrahimi Mosque. They also demolished residential tents and animal shelters. According to [OCHA](#) reports, six demolitions happened in Hebron/Al Khalil between September and December 2021.





6. INCIDENT REPORT OF VIOLATIONS

CPT regularly monitors Quitoun Checkpoint (209) and Al Salaymeh Checkpoint (160) while school children travel to and from school to observe and record incidents of human rights violations. In this section we highlight some incidents that CPT documented from 16 August 2021 to 15 January 2022.

16 AUGUST 2021:

Some children started to throw stones between 7:30 AM and 7:55 AM. After 15 minutes, an Israeli occupation forces vehicle came out of the checkpoint and followed a couple of children, then shot one live ammunition in the air and one teargas canister inside Khadeeja school before leaving.

18 AUGUST 2021:

Around 8:25 AM, a 14-year-old child was on his way to school. He was crying as he walked, seemingly upset from something personal. As he crossed next to the Abed Checkpoint, soldiers started to shout at him but he wasn't focused at all. Soldiers start screaming to the other soldiers at the end of the street to stop him. At this point, the soldiers asked the child to stop from a distance and to throw his backpack on the ground. He did this, and the five soldiers surrounded him, then three Border Police took his backpack and asked him to follow them to the Abed Checkpoint. Two members of CPT accompanied him to the checkpoint to make sure that the soldiers wouldn't escalate the situation. He was physically checked from a distance, they checked his bag, then allowed him to leave and go to school.

14 SEPTEMBER 2021:

After the school day started at 08:05 AM, two CPT members left Salaymeh Checkpoint and headed directly to Qiuton checkpoint where an escalation had started. Around 11:30 AM things started to become calm. The following incidents took place during the observation:

Assault (adult): Two border police attacked a Palestinian adult while he was standing outside his home. Soldiers were asking him to go home but at the same time three soldiers were inside his home using the balcony to fire tear gas against people gathering around Tareq Bin Ziyad square.

Vehicle stop/search:

The border police stopped approximately 16 cars near the Health Work Committees building and vehicle searches were conducted by the border police.

Movement through checkpoint denied:

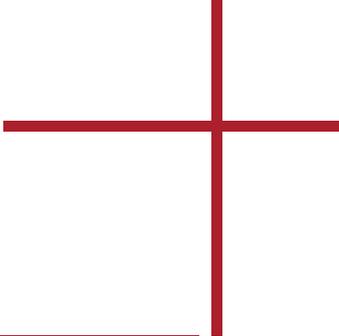
When the border police left Qiton checkpoint, the checkpoint was shut down and no Palestinians were allowed to enter but exiting through the checkpoint was permitted.

Delays at checkpoints:

Around 10:45 AM, the checkpoint was opened again for entering but there was a delay for everyone trying to enter because soldiers were searching everyone.

27 SEPTEMBER 2021:

13-year-old Bader Alrajabi was leaving school when the Israeli forces operating at the checkpoint accused him throwing stones. The soldiers detained him and the CPT members who were present called the District Coordination Office (Israeli-Palestinian military coordination offices) and informed the family. The DCO informed the CPT team that the boy will be handed over to the Palestinian Police. The entire incident resulted in the closure the checkpoint for about an hour.

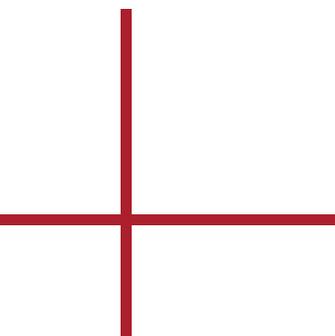


30 NOVEMBER 2021:

The soldiers closed Salaymeh checkpoint from 12:35 PM to 1:03 PM and delayed four women, five men and 15 children. They closed the checkpoint once again from 1:13 PM to 1:33 PM. At Al-haram checkpoint, the soldiers delayed and checked the identification of seven men and one woman.

19 DECEMBER 2021:

One soldier throw a sound bomb at students standing near a car, and three soldiers harassed two CPT members while they were monitoring the checkpoint. They checked CPT phones to make sure that there was no evidence of their actions.



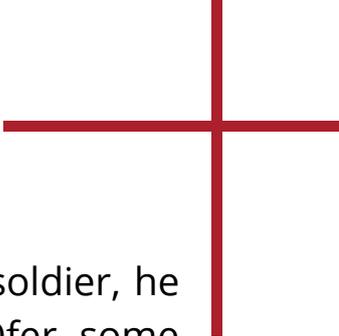
7. ISRAEL : A SETTLER-LED STATE

BY: TARTEEL AL-JUNAIDY

I remember my first school patrol with CPT very well. Winter 2019, around 7:10 am, a settler parked his car nearby and approached us. He didn't know I was Palestinian, and he put his phone into my face just like he did with my teammates, filming me while smirking, "Why are you here? To support the terrorist?" he asked. I laughed, and in my head I thought, I am the terrorist. I know that soldiers would not intervene if he attacked me. So I asked my teammates to step back and walk away from the situation.

While monitoring the checkpoints near the schools in the H2 area of Hebron/Al Khalil, you'll begin to notice the dynamic when a settler approaches the Israeli soldiers. It feels like it's their duty to prove to the settlers their loyalty. Settlers observe soldiers' actions and evaluate them.



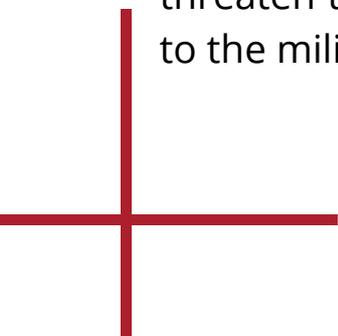


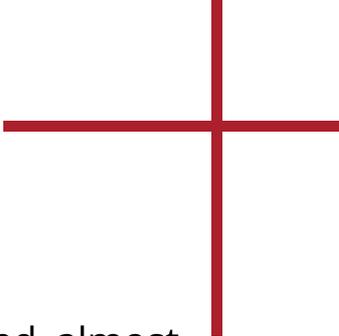
In a conversation that CPT had with Gilad, a former Israeli soldier, he confirmed that “in every settlement there is someone like Ofer, some of these settlements are playing the role of the government. They orient soldiers and incite them and encourage them to attack Palestinians and how important their role is to protect them from Arabs. They’re told that Arabs want to kill us, kick us out, so as a soldier you must be tough and mean to them.”

On a daily basis, Ofer Ohana comes by the checkpoints in H2 of Hebron/Al Khalil, mainly Salaymeh Checkpoint (160) around 7:20am. He gets out of his car at the military gate and pulls out his phone, while checking if the children are gathering down the street. Sometimes he provokes the children when they gather, and they throw stones or yell at him. He starts filming them, then approaches the soldiers inside the checkpoint and talks to them. A few minutes later, soldiers start coming out from the checkpoint. Teargas, stun grenades, arrest, detention—or all of them together—will follow. On 19 September, CPT observed Ofer giving the soldiers instructions on how to act towards observers and towards the children.

[On 20 December](#), Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) arrested three minors around 11 years old in front of their school, claiming they were throwing stones at the checkpoint.

CPT attempted to approach the children to ask them their names, to document what happened and share the information with families and other human rights organizations. The Israeli soldiers harassed us and took our phones to delete everything we filmed. They did not allow us to get close to the children. However, after the soldiers took the children to the checkpoint and beat them, Israeli settler Ofer Ohana was permitted to approach the children, interrogate and threaten them, and take photos of them before they were transferred to the military vehicle.





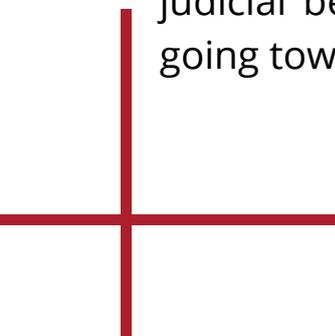
When settlers attack, the Israeli forces rarely intervene and almost never arrest Israeli settlers. But if Palestinians tried to defend themselves from these attacks, the Palestinians would be beaten and most likely arrested by the occupation forces within a matter of seconds.

A recent [B'Tselem](#) report confirms this observation. The settler violence and state violence are one, where “the military avoids confronting violent settlers as a matter of policy, although soldiers have the authority and duty to detain and arrest them. As a rule, the military prefers to remove Palestinians from their own farmland or pastureland rather than confront settlers, using various tactics such as issuing closed military zone orders that apply to Palestinians only, or firing tear gas, stun grenades, rubber-coated metal bullets and even live rounds.”

Not only that, soldiers participate regularly in settler attacks by conducting [joint attacks](#) against Palestinians and properties.

This is the modus operandi of the occupation. We do not expect to see benevolence from the occupation, instead, I've heard so many times that we must “see the face of god in your enemy.” I didn't know what this meant until I served with CPT. It's confusing when you see “nice” soldiers, and being a good guy at the checkpoint doesn't deny how horrible the occupation is. But I genuinely feel empathy, even without trying. But, the curiosity in me wanted to know, why soldiers won't stop the settlers from intervening in their duty? Gilad tried to give us some explanation:

“After 1967, right-wing parties have increased in Israel, and due to the judicial belief of having lots of children, the demography of Israel is going towards the right.”



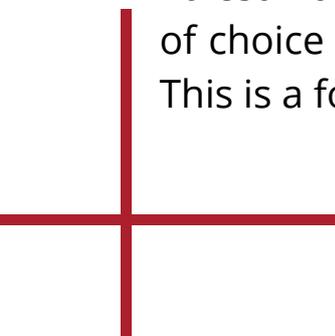


Some of the soldiers are settlers themselves so they support and agree with settlers over anything and have no problem with what they are doing. If they are not settlers, they probably believe in the concept of “the land is ours” and they believe they have to protect the settlers and support them.”

But what if the soldier is not part of this vision? Gilad continues, “serving in the Israeli military for any Israeli over 18 years old is a compulsory service for three years. Their location changes every 3-4 months, and it’s clear, their job is to protect a specific settlement. Why would an 18 year-old soldier get into a fight with a settler who is fully supported by his community? If a soldier disagrees or negotiates something he will be called a traitor.”

Israelis who refuse to serve in the IOF must provide the courts with documents proving their inability to serve. If their claims are rejected, they face prison for approximately 10 months and they lose many privileges. However, there are several Israeli citizens who refuse compulsory service, among them the Arab Druze who were also forced to serve in the IOF throughout history. [URFOD](#) is a Palestinian campaign within the Palestinian Druze community in the 48 areas (what is called now Israel). URFOD was founded in 2014, calling on young people to “REFUSE, your people will protect you,” to encourage conscripts to refuse contributing to the occupation.

In conclusion, there is no benevolent side to the occupation; settlers are becoming more powerful with the government’s support. Soldiers have no power over them and Palestinian rights get lost every second of the occupation. We call for freedom from the occupation, both for Palestinians living under unbelievable oppression as well as freedom of choice for people who choose not to serve in the occupation army. This is a form of the allyship we are looking for.



8. VIOLATION AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVERS

In this section, we highlight some violations against human rights observers during their presence at checkpoints or during the daily patrols in the H2 area.

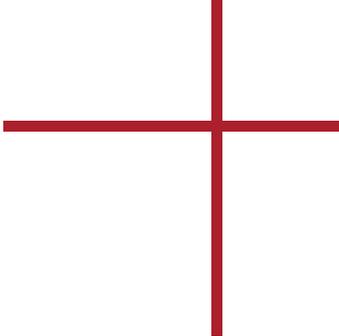
26 August 2021:

CPT received a call from a Palestinian in the area of the Al Ibrahimy mosque, informing us that Israeli Border Police were harassing a Palestinian at Abed Checkpoint.



Two CPT members arrived at the area and stayed there for almost 15 minutes until they made sure that things were calm and nothing serious was happening.

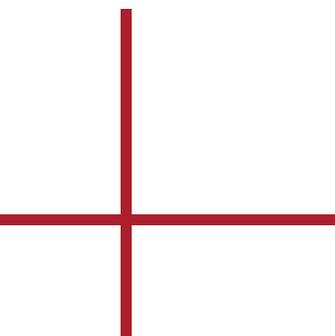
As CPT prepared to leave the area, they passed by Abed Checkpoint when an Israeli Border Police officer called a CPT member by name and spoke to him in a threatening tone: "Stop jumping around from one place to another, I'm watching you, be careful." It was a hidden threat by the officer toward the observer.



“This threat wasn't easy, especially since the officer knew my name. When he called me by my name and threatened me using this language, I felt that he was watching me closely and focusing on my every step in the H2 area. At this moment I felt that my life was in danger and that things could get worse at any time, especially that he's representing the powerful side,” commented the observer.

19 September 2021: “Your presence is the problem”

While two observers were monitoring Salaymeh Checkpoint (160), a few boys started throwing stones. The soldiers left the checkpoint and came over to the observers, gathering around them asking them to take photos of them as a group. The CPT members refused, so one of the Arab soldiers told them, “your presence is the problem.” Then the soldiers moved down the street and tried to shoot teargas at the children. CPT stayed at the same location to ensure they would be able to document any kind of violation. However, the soldiers didn't use any teargas. A few minutes later, they sent two soldiers to check CPT members' identification, but it was actually to distract them so the other soldiers could fire tear gas canisters at children.

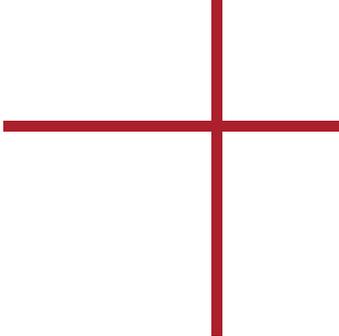


9. CONCLUSION



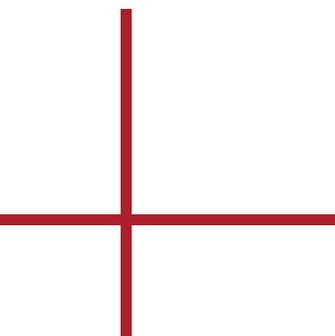
This report documents the daily experiences of hundreds of children in the H2 area of al-Khalil/Hebron, as they pass through military checkpoints on their way to school and back to their homes. The students are regularly subjected to delays, bag checks, detention, and use of force. Teachers and parents are also subjected to ID, bag, and body checks, which often occur in front of their children.

This report is a documentation of the restriction of movement and lack of safe access to education for Palestinian children. These checkpoints are constructed for the safety and security of illegal Israeli settlers at the expense of Palestinian children's right to education.



This semester, CPT witnessed an increase in use of force, including tear gas and child arrests. Also, there is a repeated pattern of closing the checkpoint for long periods of time, while Israeli soldiers leave the checkpoint to chase students and arrest them, with the added incitement of Israeli settlers.

Despite all these risks children face on their way schools, students and teachers continue to resist these barriers to for the sake of their education. In the words of Desmond Tutu, “inclusive and good-quality education is a foundation for dynamic and equitable societies.” By sharing this data, we strive to amplify the stories of those who are experiencing the degradation and injustice of the Israeli occupation, and to promote narratives that call for peace with justice.





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