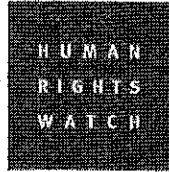


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Human Rights Watch welcomes Israel's participation in its second Universal Periodic Review but remains concerned with human rights violations by Israeli authorities in Israel and in the occupied territories.

Israeli authorities have not held accountable members of the security forces responsible for apparently unlawful killings of Palestinian civilians. In August 2013, for example, after clashes erupted during an arrest raid in Qalandia refugee camp, Israeli security forces fatally shot Roubin Zayed, an UNRWA employee whom witnesses said Israel forces shot at close range while he was walking to work. Israeli authorities have not prosecuted anyone for his death.

Israeli authorities have also failed to adequately enforce the law against Israeli settlers in occupied territories who have harmed Palestinians and their property in hundreds of attacks.

In 2013, Israeli authorities illegally demolished the homes of more than 1,100 Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. They also confiscated or demolished emergency shelters donated by humanitarian agencies to affected Palestinians. The forcible transfer of civilians by an occupying power is a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

Israel's purported justification for these demolitions was a discriminatory planning regime that allocates land to settlements but makes it virtually impossible for Palestinians to obtain building permits. Israel continues to build new, illegal settlement housing units and other infrastructure under a different planning regime than the one it imposes on Palestinians, and to provide settlers with a variety of incentives to move to the occupied territories. The transfer of Israeli civilians to occupied Palestinian territory is also a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Israeli authorities continued to arbitrarily detain Palestinians, including children and peaceful protesters. They questioned children suspected of criminal offenses, usually related to stone-throwing, without a family member or a lawyer present.

Israel continues to administratively detain Palestinians without charge or trial, based on secret evidence. In 2013, Israeli prison authorities shackled hospitalized Palestinians to their beds after they went on long-term hunger strikes to protest their administrative detention.

Israeli forces continue to impose excessive restrictions on the movement of Palestinians in the West Bank, and to prohibit almost any Palestinian resident of the Gaza Strip from traveling to the West Bank without justification, separating families. Israel's and Egypt's joint punitive closure of the Gaza Strip has severe humanitarian consequences for the civilian population. More than 70 percent of the 1.7 million people in Gaza receive humanitarian assistance.