

Olive Harvest Fact Sheet

Important Facts

- About 47.1%¹ of the agricultural land in the occupied Palestinian land is planted with nearly 76769² million olive trees
- Olive trees account for 70%³ of fruit production in Palestine
- Olives form a direct and indirect source of livelihood for around 100,000 Palestinian families
- The overall profits of one dunum of olive trees is estimated to be around \$84, and the overall profits of the olive harvest in Palestine might exceed \$84⁴ million annually
- In the vicinity of 474⁵ Israeli settlements, Palestinian access to olive groves is limited to certain times during the harvest season
- Since the 1st of October 2016, more than 1000¹ olive trees belonging to Palestinians were uprooted by the Israeli army and settlers

Challenges faced Palestinians in olive harvest season:-

1. Permits

If the Palestinian farmer owns a land in Area C, 62%² of the West Bank, which according to Oslo is under full Israeli control, farmer is obliged to obtain a special permit or arrange for “prior coordination” with the Israeli authorities to access their land and to tend to their trees. The permit system is an arbitrary system, since if approved; and in most cases not approved, farmers have to cross designated Barrier gates and checkpoints. Most of the crossings along the Barrier are only open during the olive harvest period and only for a limited amount of time on those days. Moreover, in most cases, the permit might be issued to only person under whose name the land is registered with no one else from the family allowed accessing the land.

2. Increase in Settler violence

Another growing challenge facing Palestinian farmers is attacks by settlers. Since the 1st of October 2016, the Israeli settler's attacks dramatically increased, Where these attacks are anticipated to spike up during the olive harvest season in which Palestinian farmers become targets as they harvest their olives. For example, in the last season, the Israeli settlers' attacks led to one martyr and lot of injuries

3. Land confiscations and trees uprooting

Israeli confiscation policy has notably escalated in occupied Jerusalem and West Bank by 439% since the beginning of 2016 in comparison to last year. Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem (ARIJ) revealed in their report that Israeli authorities confiscated since the beginning of the year 7,773 dunom⁵ of Palestinian-owned lands,. Regarding trees uprooting, the first six months of this years witnessed a systematic destruction of the olive trees, the number of olive trees uprooted since the 1st of October, 2016 reached 1000 trees².

Resources:

- 1: <https://www.ochaopt.org/>
- 2: <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Downloads/book1928.pdf>
- 3: <http://www.miftah.org/Display.cfm?DocId=25491&CategoryId=4>
- 4: <http://www.palestineconomy.ps/page.php?id=2c940y182592Y2c940>
- 5: <http://www.imcpal.ps/news/?p=40321>
- 6: <http://english.pnn.ps/2016/06/29/israeli-confiscation-of-land-show-440-increase-in-2016/>
- 7: <http://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/olive-harvest>

