



المركز الفلسطيني  
للبحوث  
السياسية والمسحية  
Palestinian Center for  
POLICY and  
SURVEY RESEARCH

*Who Needs Security?*

## **Migration from Area C**

*Executive Summary*



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### **The Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR)**

PSR is an independent nonprofit institution and think tank of policy analysis and academic research. It was founded in 2000 with the goal of advancing scholarship and knowledge on immediate issues of concern to Palestinians in three areas: domestic politics and government, strategic analysis and foreign policy, and public opinion polls and survey research. PSR conducts policy analysis and empirical surveys and public opinion research and organizes task forces, study groups, meetings and conferences. Its work focuses on current public policy issues with a special reliance on empirical evidence as a tool to advance scholarship and understanding.

PSR is dedicated to promoting objective and nonpartisan research and analysis and to encouraging a better understanding of Palestinian domestic and international environment in an atmosphere of free debate and exchange of ideas. PSR is registered as a nonprofit institution in the Palestinian Ministry of Justice.

*This initiative has been organized in cooperation with the Netherland Representative Office in Ramallah and in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Ramallah*



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# Preface:

Since early 2016, the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research has conducted empirical research on Palestinian needs for security and rule of law in the Palestinian territories outside the area known as “A.” These targeted areas included the following: (1) area B, (2) area C, (3) H2 sector of Hebron, and (4) isolated Jerusalem neighborhoods located to the east of the Israeli separation wall, including Kofr Aqab, Samir Amis, Shufat refugee camp, and parts of Qalandia.

The study utilized various means and activities. Eight focus groups were conducted, each with a small group of residents from these areas ranging between 15 and 20 men and women, young and old. Four public opinion polls have been conducted during 2016. They included all areas under study, with two among a representative sample of the entire West Bank, to allow comparisons between A and non-A areas, while the other two focused on non-A areas. Six case studies covered a range of issues, including forced migration from area C, the status of security in the Jerusalem neighborhoods in area B, drug trafficking in non-A areas, aggression against women in area C, settlers’ violence, particularly in H2 area, and absence of security in isolated Jerusalem neighborhoods beyond the separation wall. The case studies relied on official statistical data, polling results, focus group findings, and field interviews. Finally, the study relied on interviews with Palestinian officials in relevant ministries and agencies, such as the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Judicial Council, the Police, the Palestinian Military Liaison, and others. Interviews were also conducted with relevant international and Israeli figures involved in the management of Palestinian-Israeli security coordination and rule of law. The study concludes with a Final Report containing a summary of the findings and the study’s recommendation and main conclusions. This paper, focusing on “Migration from Area C” provides a review of one of the main problems confronting Palestinians in those areas in which law enforcement is weak or non-existent.

This initiative has been conducted in close cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Interior and in consultation with various security sector and rule of law agencies. The study has also been conducted in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Ramallah and the Quartet Office and with funding from the Netherlands Representative Office in Ramallah. PSR wishes to express gratitude to all those partners and donors who contributed to its work. It should be clear however that support for this project does not necessarily mean an endorsement of the content of this final report or any of the other papers and products.

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# Executive Summary:

About 300,000 Palestinian citizens live in the area classified as “C,” clustering in 532 populated areas and living under severe measures imposed by the Israeli authorities. These measures include restrictions on development and construction in addition to those imposed on movement. The military occupation authorities have also erected hundreds of checkpoints and road impediments throughout area C and have ignored the various needs of the population. The Israeli authorities have confiscated lands for military and non-military purposes and have forced Bedouins to abandon areas where they normally concentrate. Demolition of homes and other built-up structures and the destruction of agricultural lands have made life difficult to sustain for many people. These measures and similar others violate international law as well as the Interim Agreements of 1993 and 1995 between the PLO and Israel.

Many leave their place of residence in area C seeking more secure and stable areas of the West Bank. There are various economic, social, political, and security reasons for this exodus. The study’s focus is on those related to lack of security and the absence of any law enforcement in area C. Most search for better protection from threats imposed by the occupying army and the settlers, as the case in the H2 area of Hebron. Others seek safety and security against internal threats and criminals and the inability of the Palestinian security services to enforce the law in these areas.

The PA and its public institutions can take several steps to reduce the magnitude of the problem of migration from area C and H2. Providing tangible and intangible support to those affected by the harshest Israeli measures and those living under fear should aim at encouraging them to remain in their land. The PA can provide various types of support such as basic infrastructure and roads as well as zoning plans and maps. On top of that, the PA should seek to find ways that can help reduce the insecurity and allow for greater law enforcement. Opening police stations in some of the critical areas is one option. But a mere police presence or patrols in uniform can provide the public greater confidence and strengthen the will to stay. Working jointly with local government and the governorates, as well as civil society, the Police can find ways to recruit civilian guards who can patrol the area, receive complaints, and report directly to the police.





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