

# WATER DENIED

PALESTINIAN BEDOUIN COMMUNITIES RUN DRY

The West Bank was divided into three areas A, B and C as part of the Oslo Accords (1995):

70

70 Palestinian Bedouin communities who live in Area C have continuously been at risk of forced displacement by the Israeli authorities, and for decades have been denied access to basic amenities, including the right to water.



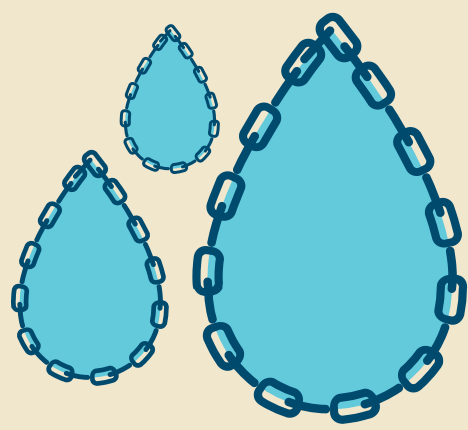
**Area A (18%)**  
Administered by the Palestinian Authority.

**Area B (20%)**  
under joint control.

**Area C (62%)**  
Administered by Israel.



In Area C, Israel retains near exclusive control, including over essential infrastructure, planning, construction, movement, security and law enforcement.



Since the start of the occupation in 1967, the Israeli authorities seized control of all water sources in the Occupied Palestinian Territories through a series of military orders which deny Palestinians access to water.

- (Amnesty International, 2009)

85%

of Palestinian Bedouin families living in Area C have **NO connection to a water network** and have to rely on tankered water.

- (UNOCHA, 2014)



In contrast,



Israeli settlements in Area C which are considered

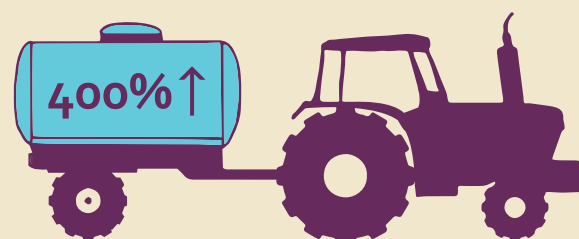
**illegal**

under International Law face no such restrictions on water.

- (Amnesty International, 2017)

Unlimited access to water for Israeli settlements result in water consumption rates of 300-330 litres/capita/day. For some Palestinian Bedouins living in Area C, water consumption is as low as 20 l/c/d, one-fifth of the World Health Organization's recommendation of 100 l/c/d. According to the UN, 20 l/c/d is the minimum quantity of water needed to survive a humanitarian disaster.

(UNDP, 2013)



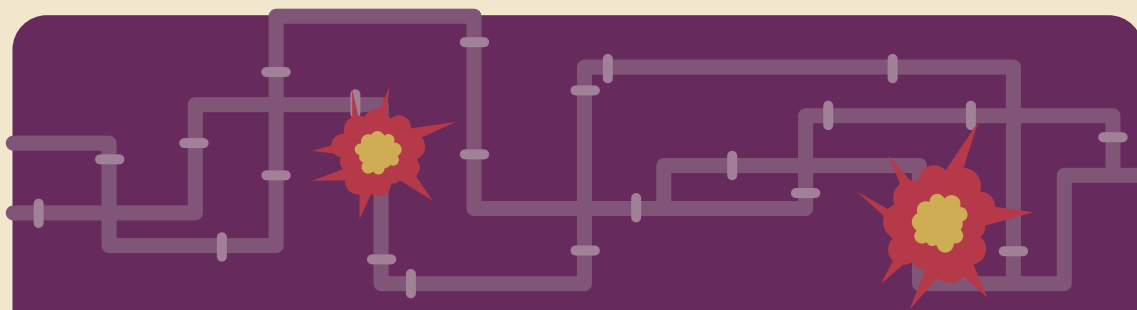
Tankered water can cost up to 400 percent more per litre than network water. For Bedouin herder communities, the cost of relying on tankered water undermines their ability to maintain their livelihoods. Without enough water for their livestock, they are forced to reduce their herd and in turn their traditional means of subsistence

- (UNHRC, 2021; UNDP, 2013)

**DENIED**

In Area C, a **PERMIT** from the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) is required for the construction of any buildings or structures, including water infrastructure, something which the United Nations describes as **"VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE"** for Palestinians to obtain.

(UNOCHA, 2021)



Since 2017, 101 water and sanitation facilities have been demolished by the Israeli authorities in Palestinian Bedouin communities in Area C, on the basis of "lacking a building permit".

“ Our area had a 500-metre-long spring, from which the water was primarily used for our livestock. **HOWEVER, THIS SPRING DRIED UP DUE TO THE WATER BEING REDIRECTED TO A WELL BUILT IN THE (ISRAELI) SETTLEMENT OF MA'ALE ADUMIM.** Therefore, the water passes just next to our area, but we cannot access or obtain it. ”

- Resident of the Jabal al Baba Bedouin community in the West Bank at risk of forced displacement from the E1 zone, slated for the expansion of the Ma'ale Adumim settlement

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