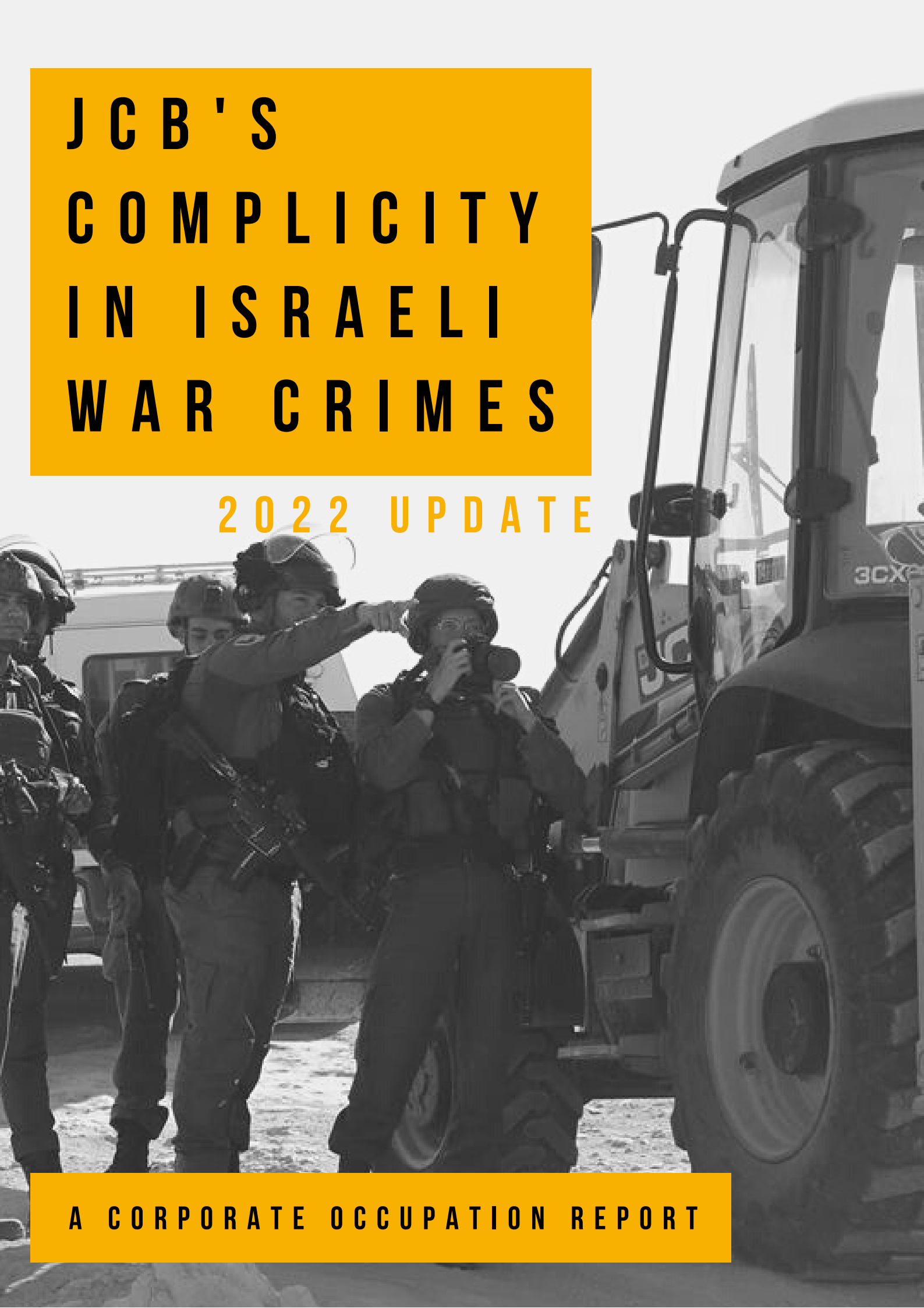


# JCB'S COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI WAR CRIMES

2022 UPDATE

A CORPORATE OCCUPATION REPORT





This report is a Corporate Occupation project. Our aim is to track corporate complicity in Israeli colonisation, militarism and apartheid, and to provide information-for-action for grassroots activists to use in their campaigns.

Corporate Occupation is run by researchers from Shoal Collective, a cooperative which produces news articles, investigations, analysis and research as a contribution to, and a resource for, movements that are attempting to bring about social and political change.

Our research work has been supported by the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions UK (ICAHD UK). ICAHD works to resist the occupation, with a focus on Israel's policy of demolishing Palestinian homes.

[corporateoccupation.org](http://corporateoccupation.org)



For the past four years, we have been tracking JCB's complicity in Israeli war crimes.

Since 2019, we have trawled through internet footage and photos to identify every demolition, destruction of water pipes or razing of land that the Israeli Civil Administration and Israeli forces have carried out using JCB machines.

We have then collated statistics, showing the number of people displaced or affected, as well as the number of structures or trees destroyed.

Our latest results show the **absolute minimum** number of demolitions where JCB equipment was used in 2021.

*Above photo: Demolition in the South Hebron Hills, 11 August 2021.  
Video still from BT'selem.*

*Previous page: Demolition of Wadi al-Ahmar, 28 January 2021. Photo by Active Stills.*

# Our findings

We found evidence of JCB backhoe loaders destroying more structures than in 2020. The machines were also used to displace more people, and make more children homeless, than in the previous year.

In 2021:



214

structures were demolished using JCB equipment, including

87  
homes

# Our findings

JCB machines were used to  
make at least



**330**  
people

homeless in 2021,  
including at least



**170**  
children

Compared to the other bulldozer companies, JCB  
bulldozers displaced the most people in 2021.



# Our findings



**2,333**

people were either displaced or directly affected by JCB machines in 2021,

, including at least



**961**  
**children**

These figures are likely to be much higher because there were incidents where we could not find the number of people affected (such as the exhuming of graves at a cemetery in Jersusalem: see page 8).

# Our findings

In 2021,  
JCB machines  
destroyed at least

**3,988  
trees**

On top of this, JCB machines destroyed at least 11 water tanks, cisterns, water pipes, reservoirs or irrigation systems, cutting Palestinian villages off from the water sources that are needed in order to survive on their land.



# Key incidents



## **The destruction of al-Yusufiya cemetery in Jerusalem.**

The above photo, taken by Aseel Jundi, shows Ola Nababta clinging to her son's grave. A JCB machine can be seen behind her. In late 2021, Israeli authorities, with help from Israeli forces, dug up Palestinian graves to make way for a biblical-themed national park.

Footage of Ola being torn from the grave by soldiers circulated on social media, as a JCB backhoe loader dug up the cemetery behind her. We found footage of JCB machines being used in the cemetery on 5 September and 26 October 2021.



# Key incidents

## The destruction of more than 3,000 forest trees in the northern Jordan Valley.

On 27 January 2021, Israeli forces destroyed the trees which had been planted by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture. The occupation forces claimed that the trees interfered with military training.

An Israeli military officer told the Palestinian locals that the forces had sprayed the felled trees with pesticides, and that if their flocks of animals were brought there within the next 24 hours, they would be poisoned.

The same forces also destroyed around 130 olive and almond trees belonging to a farmer.

Later in the year, on 13 July 2021, JCB machines were used to destroy 858 olive trees in Qusra, Nablus.



*Video still of the Jordan Valley incident, taken from BT'selem.*

# Key incidents



## The destruction of water networks, affecting hundreds of villagers.

On 25 October 2021, the occupation forces used JCB machinery to destroy a water network, providing precious water to the villages in the Masafer Yatta area, south of Hebron. Reports also stated that the same forces destroyed a road linking the villages, too. According to ICAHD, this demolition affected 575 adults and 569 children.

On 28 November, JCB machines were also used to destroy a water network belonging to the villagers of Khirbet Atuf, near Tubas. ICAHD reported that this affected 446 people.

*Photo of Masafer Yatta incident from Wafa news agency.*

# Key incidents



## The repeated demolition of Khirbet Humsa in the Jordan Valley.

In February 2021, the Israeli occupation destroyed the bedouin village of Khirbet Humsa numerous times. The residents live in tent structures on Area C land. The Israeli Civil Administration confiscated their tents, as well as their livestock enclosures.

JCB machines were used to destroy the village on 3 February 2021, where 37 structures were destroyed. JCB backhoe loaders were also used a few days later on 8 February, destroying 26 structures, and on 22 February, destroying 34 structures.

Khirbet Humsa had also been destroyed using a JCB machine in November 2020, making 70 people homeless, including 41 children.

*Photo taken from a screenshot of a video by BT'selem.*



# The campaign to stop JCB: 2022 update



**The campaign in the UK to try to stop JCB from providing demolition equipment to Israel is going from strength to strength.**

There have been a number of actions at JCB sites, including the blocking of factory entrances, as campaigners try to convince JCB to stop supplying Comasco with its bulldozers.

People have also been putting pressure on the NSPCC to cut ties with JCB. As a charity that protects children, it is ironic that it accepts hefty donations from a company complicit in making hundreds of children homeless every year.



# The campaign to stop JCB: 2022 update

In June 2021 and November 2021, ICAHD UK held webinars which focused on the JCB campaign as well as the NSPCC's complicity with JCB.

On 12 November 2021, the National Contact Point, which is a UK government body, found that JCB was in breach of its human rights responsibilities. The ruling followed a case that was brought to the NCP by Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights.

Also in November 2021, Amnesty International published a report revealing that:

*"JCB's sole agent in Israel has contracts for the maintenance of JCB's equipment with Israel's Ministry of Defence, including for the type of bulldozer known to have been used in the extensive and ongoing demolition of Palestinian properties and the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land which are illegal under international law."*

War on Want also launched a campaign demanding that:

*"The UK government must end its complicity with Israel's settlement enterprise and hold businesses – including JCB – to account."*

Protests and seminars continued, and on 6 December 2021 ICAHD UK used a high powered video projector to screen images of home demolitions onto the side of the NSPCC's HQ in London.

Also in December 2021, a protest was held at JCB's premises in Rocester on the theme of the cruelty that is caused to children when their homes, schools and communities are destroyed.

# The campaign to stop JCB: 2022 update

In February 2022 Derby Friends of Hebron and other groups held a protest at the JCB world headquarters.

Also in February 2022, leaked papers revealed that JCB's Chairman Lord Bamford had attended several private meetings with Boris Johnson as part of an 'advisory board' to the Conservative Party. Bamford is a major Tory donor, sparking accusations of 'cash-for-access'.

In April 2022, Protecting Palestinian Families members responded angrily to the NSPCC's lack of response to concerns over its links to JCB. They said:

*"Every child is important in the eyes of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children – unless they are Palestinian, it would seem. The NSPCC has accepted millions from a company which makes money from destroying Palestinian homes, traumatising the children and plunging the families into instant poverty.*

*The three-year campaign to change the charity's practice eventually evinced a response, saying that the NSPCC had checked with its lawyers, who determined that it was "legal" to carry on accepting JCB's money.*

*Meanwhile the United Nations, Amnesty International and Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights have all denounced JCB's complicity with Israel as war crimes. The company is currently under scrutiny by the OECDi for its lack of a human rights policy."*

In May 2022 the NSPCC held an online conference called 'How Safe Are Our Children'. Campaigners held a Twitterstorm, hijacking their hashtag to raise the issue of JCB's involvement in demolitions.

# Get involved!

**There's lots of ways that you can get involved in the campaign to stop JCB's complicity in Israeli war crimes:**

- Go to [corporateoccupation.org](https://corporateoccupation.org) and read a more detailed history of the campaign against JCB by downloading our book, *Resisting Demolitions in Palestine*. You can also download our 2021 ebook update.
- Protest and take direct action outside JCB's headquarters, factories and dealerships, calling on the company to end its relationship with Israeli company Comasco, and ensure its machinery is not supplied to any Israeli organisation which will use it in the demolition of homes and property in Palestine, or for military purposes.
- Contact JCB, telling them your concerns about home demolitions in Palestine. Write to the company at: J C Bamford Excavators Limited, Rocester, Staffordshire ST14 5JP. Phone them: +44 800 083 8015, email them: <https://www.jcb.com/en-gb/about/contact-us>
- Write to the NSPCC, asking them to sever all connections to JCB and the Bamford family, and not to accept their donations.
- If your MP is sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, request that they ask a parliamentary question about JCB's continued involvement in home demolitions in Palestine.
- Contact your local council and ask them to ensure that council contractors do not use JCB equipment, because of JCB's involvement in war crimes.
- Ask your local councillor to propose a council motion to require contractors not to use JCB equipment.

**A Corporate Occupation report, in partnership with ICAHD UK.**