

JCB'S COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI WAR CRIMES

2023 update



A Corporate Occupation report, supported by ICAHD

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 and Israel's settler colonial and apartheid policies. Its focus for mobilisation is on Israel's policy of demolishing Palestinian homes.

• corporateoccupation.org

ICAHD.org



Cover photo: Israeli bulldozers demolish two homes in al-Walaja, 2 Nov 2022. Photo by Ahmad Tayem.
Above photo: A JCB excavator demolishes 3 livelihood structures at al-Jalama checkpoint, 26 July 2022.

5 YEARS OF STATISTICS

For the past five years, we have collated statistics from every demolition/confiscation of structures, destruction of water systems, or razing of land that Israel has carried out against Palestinian people in both the West Bank and within Israel's borders.

We have searched for photographic or video evidence of which company's equipment (for example, JCB or Caterpillar) was used in each incident between 2018 & 2022. And for the past four years, we have also tallied up the number of people affected or displaced by JCB machines.

The following statistics show the degree of carnage and anguish caused by JCB through allowing the use of its machines in Palestine.

The actual figures are likely to be **much higher**: the figures only include the demolitions we can find evidence of. There are always demolitions where there is no video or photo evidence, and so these are not included in the statistics.

Between 2019 & 2022
JCB machines were used to displace or
directly affect at least



41,251
people

The infographic consists of a large blue circle containing the text '41,251 people' in white. To the right of this circle is a smaller purple circle containing the text '2,071 children*'. Below the blue circle is the text 'including at least'.

including at least



2,071
children*

The infographic consists of a large blue circle containing the text '41,251 people' in white. To the right of this circle is a smaller purple circle containing the text '2,071 children*'. Below the blue circle is the text 'including at least'.

*The number of children displaced or affected is, in reality, much higher than this. For many demolitions we do not know the exact breakdown of the number of adults and children affected. Therefore, we have counted those affected in these demolitions as adults.

Breakdown of statistics	Total people directly affected or displaced	Total children directly affected or displaced*
2019	29,483	405
2020	1,385	361
2021	2,333	961
2022	8,050	344

	People displaced	Of these, how many are children?*
2019	123	39
2020	278	160
2021	330	170
2022	184	80

At least
767
structures

were destroyed by JCB
machines between
2018 and 2022

including at least

262
homes

Israel destroys a structure in Jericho on 23 May 2022. Photo by Sulaiman Abu Srour



Breakdown of statistics	Structures destroyed by JCB machines (including homes)	Homes destroyed by JCB machines
2018	130	31
2019	82	34
2020	191	64
2021`	214	87
2022	150	46

2022 STATISTICS



**At least
8,050**

people were either
displaced or directly
affected by JCB
machines in 2022

including at least

344
children*

*The number of children displaced or affected is, in reality, much higher than this. For some demolitions we do not know the exact breakdown of the number of adults and children affected. Therefore, we have counted those affected in these demolitions as adults.

2022 STATISTICS

at least
184

people were displaced
by JCB machines in 2022

including at least

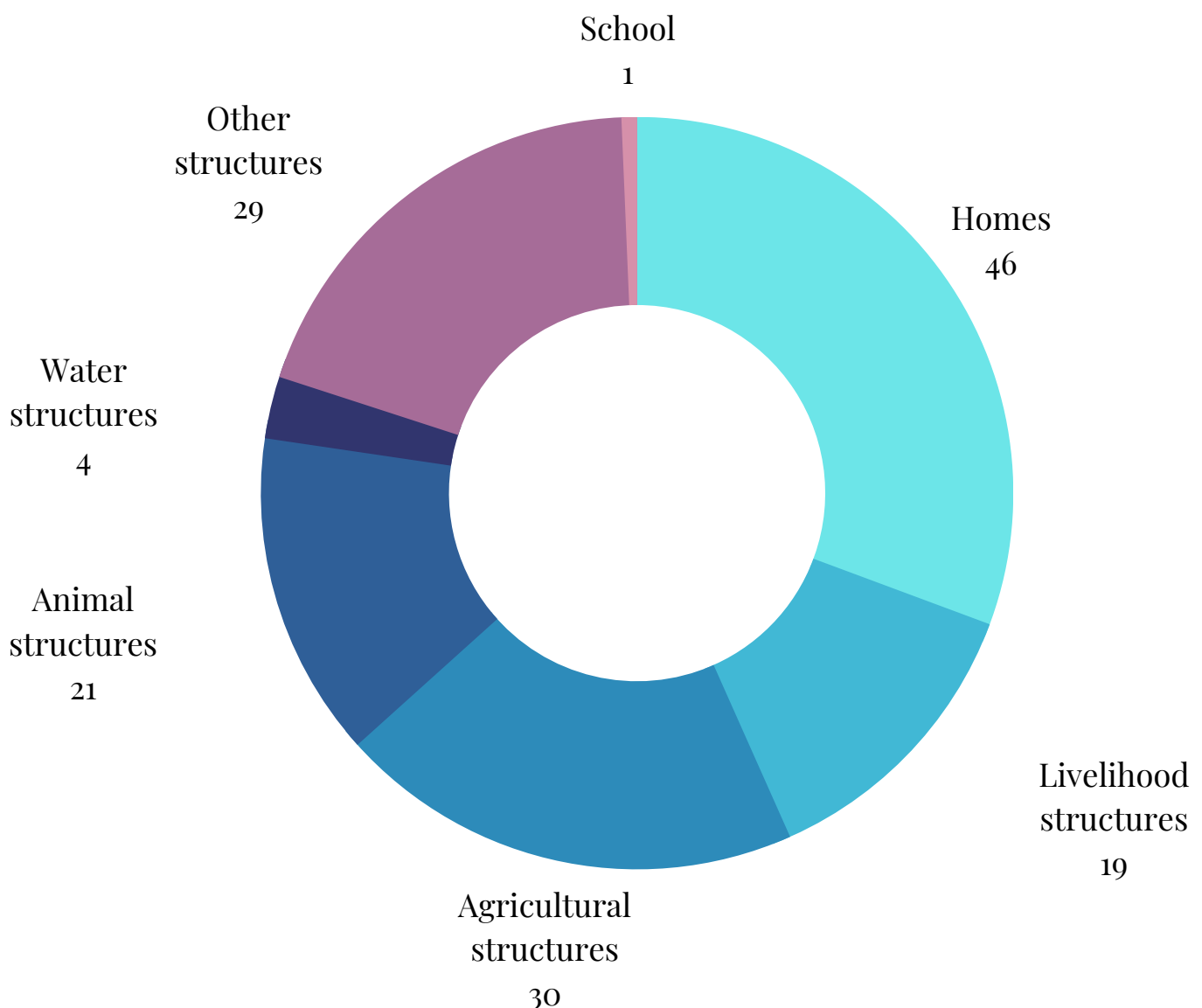
80
children

Below: A woman weeps as her home is destroyed in Masafer Yatta, 1 June 2002. Screenshot: B'Tselem



2022 STATISTICS

We found photographic or video evidence of JCB machines being used to demolish **150 structures** in 2022. The below table shows a breakdown of the types of structures demolished.



JCB'S COMPLICITY IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN MASAFER YATTA



In 2022, the region of Masafer Yatta in the South Hebron Hills was severely affected by Israeli demolitions. JCB equipment was the most commonly used.

The increase in demolitions in Masafer Yatta was because of an Israeli court ruling in May 2022, which stated that there were no more legal obstacles in the way of the eviction of the twelve communities of Masafer Yatta.

The Israeli state has been trying to push these evictions through since the early 2000s. It has used the pretext that some of the villages are within Firing Zone 918, which was established by the Israeli military in the 1970s. The evictions have been fiercely contested in the courts by local communities.

Masafer Yatta is home to at least 2,800 people, who are now under threat of imminent expulsion.

Residents are calling for support to resist the evictions. The village of Khallet al-Dabaa is under the most urgent threat. The whole village has been given a demolition order. Villagers have established tents in the community to host people who come to support the village. The residents are experiencing an increasing level of harassment, with the Israeli army regularly coming to survey the village and conduct night raids.

One resident of Khallet al-Dabaa had his leg broken during a demolition.

The Palestinian Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign (Stop the Wall) issued the following statement:

Previous page: A JCB backhoe loader is used to demolish 2 homes and 3 animal structures in Mirkez, Masafer Yatta, 11 May 2022. Screenshot: B'Tselem

“A whole community comprising more than 90 residents is at the brink of being ethnically cleansed.

Only decisive international pressure to support the struggle and steadfastness of the people on the ground can thwart the criminal decision by apartheid Israel.”

The nearby community of Isfey al-Fauqa established a school last year, in defiance of military building restrictions. Residents said that before the school was built their children had to walk many kilometres over the mountains to school in Tuba.

Isfey al-Fauqa school was demolished, or faced confiscation, three times in 2022-3. On 6 December 2022, a JCB machine was used to tear down the tents that were being used as the school after the previous structure was demolished. On each occasion border police and soldiers attacked local people with tear gas and sound bombs.

Since the court order in 2022, the people of Masafer Yatta have faced an increase in confiscations of tents, farming and building equipment. There has been a heightened military presence, more demolitions of homes, and more army violence. This has come alongside a sharp increase in settler violence. Settlers have destroyed crops and killed animals in the area, and carried out attacks on local people.

For example, Hafez Hurreini, from the village of At-Tuwani, was on his family's land in September 2022 when he was violently assaulted by settlers. He had both his arms broken. When the Israeli police arrived, they failed to arrest his assailants. Instead Hafez was accused of assaulting them and was sent to prison. He was only released after a video of the incident came to light.

The residents of Masafer Yatta are calling for support. 73 year old Zuhour Muhammad Awad, from the village of Tuba, told the Save Masafer Yatta campaign:

“Here in Masafer Yatta, we live in daily terror and under threat of displacement. In 1999, we actually were displaced. Even though we returned to Tuba, all of our homes have demolition orders, the outposts are taking over more and more of our land, and we are unsure what will happen to us in the future. This year, the settlers had taken so much of our land that we could no longer rely on grazing to feed our sheep. We needed to find another way to stay alive, so we bought food for the sheep. A few weeks later, the settlers snuck into Tuba and set 41 bales on fire. The food that was supposed to last for the whole year was burned in two hours.”

She continued:

“I hope that my grandchildren will get back the security and freedom that I had when I was a child in Tuba.”

To support the campaign to Save Masafer Yatta go to savemasaferyatta.com





Previous page and above: A JCB backhoe loader is used to destroy the homes of three families in Masafer Yatta, 12 January 2022. Screenshots: B'Tselem

Below: A home in Khamlet al-Dabaa. Photo by Youth of Sumud



THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST JCB

There has been a sustained campaign against JCB since 2019, including a number of actions, blockades and lock-ons at JCB's headquarters. Campaigners have also targeted the NSPCC, urging the charity to stop taking sizeable donations from JCB. You can read more about previous actions in our [previous report](#).

The JCB campaign, which comprised of ICAHD UK, Protecting Palestinian Families (PPF), Corporate Occupation and other activists, expanded in 2022 to include Amnesty, War on Want, Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the Amos Trust.

Golf tournament

The first joint action together was raising awareness during JCB's Legends Golf Tournament, from 29 to 31 July 2022 at JCB's golf course in Rocester, Staffordshire, also the site of JCB headquarters.

The event was a perfect opportunity to show both golfers and spectators alike the horrors that JCB is complicit in. Protesters were joined by 300 cyclists taking part in the Big Ride for Palestine.

ICAHD UK explained:

"On the first day of the tournament, demonstrators with banners and

posters positioned themselves at the JCB entrance to catch everyone's attention as they arrived. Flyers were handed out and put on vehicles in the car park. Our stickers were put on surfaces within the grounds of JCB headquarters. Some from our group purchased tickets for the tournament with the intention of awareness-raising and flyer distribution within the golf course itself but all were turned away by security at the entrance."

ICAHD UK continued:

"Because JCB hoped to raise a million pounds from the tournament, with profits going to the NSPCC's Platinum Jubilee Appeal, the call for NSPCC to sever its ties with JCB was also highlighted that day. And throughout the tournament, the prepared tweets and Facebook and Instagram posts went out enabling people not in Rochester to also participate in the campaign."



PPF's Sharen Green attended the event. She explained:

"As a family-owned firm, JCB doesn't need to hold normal AGMs and there are no shareholders so the usual channels for challenging the company were not available. So we used the occasion to send a signed-for letter to Lord and Lady Bamford detailing their misdemeanours and calling them out for trying to "sportswash" their misdeeds.

The letter was signed by Protecting Palestinian Families (PPF), the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions and Jewish Voice for Labour."

The letter to the Bamfords stated:

"The UN, War on Want, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions UK, Amnesty International have all issued statements, chronicling the use of JCB machinery in grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

And now Amnesty India has railed against the fact that JCB bulldozers are used to demolish Muslim homes and businesses there.

You have been made aware of the use of your equipment in these egregious acts which traumatise children and plunge whole communities into homelessness and poverty, in Palestine, Israel and India. But you have failed to engage with either concerned bodies or individuals."

Greenbelt festival

ICAHD UK also raised awareness at the 10,000-strong Greenbelt festival in August 2022. JCB was mentioned at two seminar sessions, while information was available throughout the festival on the ICAHD UK stand.



Protesters at the golf tournament. Photos by ICAHD UK



The NSPCC campaign

Corporate Occupation has previously covered the campaign against NSPCC in our [2022 report](#). Britain's most famous charity has accepted millions of pounds from the bulldozer company which makes money from making Palestinian children homeless.

A broad coalition – comprising Defence of Children International, ICAHD UK, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Protecting Palestinian Families, Shoal Collective (Corporate Occupation), Social Work Action Network, the UK-Palestine Mental Health Network, eminent social work and medical professionals and thousands of individual citizens – has bombarded the NSPCC with letters, postcards and Tweets, all asking the senior staff and every single trustee at NSPCC to sever links with JCB. But the NSPCC argues that the donations are legal.

A December 2022 action and Twitterstorm saw campaigners sending yet another letter to key NSPCC staff. This time the letter was addressed to Santa from an imaginary Palestinian child, who told the charity that JCB bulldozers had torn down her home.

PPF said:

"All these bodies and individuals [listed above] condemn JCB, quoting international humanitarian law, international law and human rights conventions. But the NSPCC ignores it all, citing narrow legality."

PPF continued:

"The acceptance of money from JCB is “legal” so the human misery wreaked by their bulldozers is ignored.

Morality versus legality crops up in Radio4 programme The Moral Maze. When slavery was ‘legal’, was it also ‘moral’ to keep slaves? Did

the people who supported escaped slaves act morally, even though they violated the legal rights of slave owners?

We all know that the legal and the moral do not always make comfortable bed fellows – but the NSPCC happily jumps into bed with JCB. For this eminent charity, morality isn't the issue – what matters is the bottom line."

PPF argues that the NSPCC looks more like a business than a charity, where only its bank balance matters. The campaigners point out that bodies regulating charities accept that there will be times when a charity can and should refuse donations. The Charity Commission prompts charities to consider this question: "Have any public concerns been raised about the donors or their activities?" And the Institute of Fundraising says: "While it is true that the more money a charity has, the more they can do, there can be times when it is right for a charity to not accept certain donations."

Despite all this, the NSPCC continues to accept JCB's hefty donations.

GET INVOLVED!

- Go to 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 it 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 it 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 publication

JCB HOMEWRECKER

JCB MACHINES ARE BEING USED
BY ISRAEL TO COMMIT WAR CRIMES
IN PALESTINE



ISRAELI MILITARY USES JCB DIGGERS
TO DESTROY PALESTINIAN HOMES AND
ISOLATING
TO BUILD ILL-LEGAL
INTERNATIONAL