



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

Who Needs Security?

**Current Structure of the PA Security Sector and its Ability
to provide Security to Areas B and C:**

Reallocation of Resources

Executive Summary



Jehad Harb

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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 the reallocation of resources within the security sector, provides a review of the capacity of the Palestinian security sector and addresses one of the recommendations of the Final Report of the study.

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:

Palestinian citizens in areas classified as B, C, H2 of Hebron, and the isolated Jerusalem neighborhoods demand the deployment of the Palestinian police or the continued presence of police patrols in their areas as the best means of addressing the challenges posed by the perceived lack of security and the absence of law enforcement. This demand poses a serious challenge to the Palestinian Authority (PA). The existing restrictions imposed by the Oslo Agreement on the movement of the PA security forces between the various Palestinian territories resulted in a division of jurisdictional responsibilities that requires daily coordination with the Israeli authorities in order to allow police access to road in area C leading to Palestinian population centers in the various B and C areas. This critical restriction to the movement of the Palestinian police is complicated by the imbalance in the structure of the security sector that affects the distribution of manpower, rank, and logistical and material resources, as well as the geographic and functional distribution of the members of the Palestinian Police.

The PA's lack of access to economic resources and financial revenues limits the ability of the Police to hire new recruits and to provide the needed capacity to enforce security and justice in the B and C areas of the West Bank. This state of affairs limits the ability of the PA and the police to provide the required security and safety demanded by the public in those areas against threats posed by local criminals and armed settlers.

These challenges point to the need of the security sector to fundamentally reexamine and reassess distribution of its capabilities to fit more closely the security needs of the Palestinian public including those residing in the marginalized B and C areas. The goal of the reassessment is to insure wider benefit and optimal utilization of the available personnel as well as non-personnel and logistical resources in order to deliver decent security and law enforcement and to confront more effectively threats throughout the Palestinian territories.

This paper proposes a number of recommendations that can be collectively labeled as a reallocation of the current resources for better delivery of security in B and C areas:

- One of these recommendations addresses the need to affect the overall structure of the security sector with the goal of strengthening the place and role of the civil sector, the Police Department and Civil Defense, and to reduce the resources devoted to the military sector, represented by the National Security Forces (NSF) and the Presidential Guard (PG), via reducing size of the latter to fit the nature of its actual mission and function within the PA.
- Second, the PA security sector needs to address the enduring problem of the irrational ratio between the various ranks in order to create a more normal balance between the commanding officers and the soldiers or lower ranks. This will require a reassessment of the current mechanism for promotion in order to correct the effects of the previous hiring. It also requires taking into account the current annual production of officers through missions and scholarships in military and police colleges occasionally offered by Arab and foreign donor countries.
- Third, the Police in the West Bank needs a more optimal geographic distribution of personnel in a manner more proportionate to the needs of the various governorates, thus reducing the current crowdedness in the General Headquarter of the Police in Ramallah which receives the largest number of officers and commissioned officers.

- Fourth, a need exists to strengthen those police departments and units with technical know-how and capacities that are directly relevant to the task of maintaining societal peace, prevent crime and enforce the law. This may require the transfer of some units and personnel from the Preventive Security, particularly those in the drug enforcement and crime investigation, to the Police Department.
- Fifth, rural police stations need to be strengthened with added manpower, arms, vehicles and equipment that can allow for better mobility and service delivery to the public.

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