



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

*Who Needs Security?*

## **Drug Trafficking in B and C Areas**

*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 “Drug Trafficking in B and C Areas,” provides a review of one of the main threats confronting Palestinians in the areas located outside area A of the West Bank.

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:

In recent years, Palestinian B and C areas have witnessed a significant rise in drug use, trafficking, and cultivation of narcotics. These areas, mostly C but also B, have become a safe haven for the drug business. Criminal elements in the West Bank, working with drug dealers in Israel, build green houses and labs in these Palestinian areas and organize large operations with significant financial investment. It is possible that organized crime is becoming a serious problem for the PA to contend with. At the public level, there is a wide spread perception that drug use and trafficking, including to children in schools in area C, are becoming a grave public threat.

The absence of Palestinian police and Israeli police indifference to the problem is the main reasons for the rise in the intensity of the problem. PA police has no jurisdiction over Israelis, Arabs or Jews, or residents of the West Bank who carry the East Jerusalem Israeli IDs. This lack of jurisdiction facilitates crime by creating a security and legal vacuum currently being exploited by drug traffickers.

The PA can resort to various means to strengthen its capacity to fight drug trafficking and provide the public in area C with a safer environment:

- 1) It can seek a formal presence in area C in the form of police stations or regular patrols. The extension of PA law enforcement jurisdiction requires an Israeli approval. But it is the option most preferred by the Palestinian public.
- 2) The PA should strengthen the capacity of the police force to arrest and indict drug traffickers. It can do that by devoting greater resources to police operations in rural areas.
- 3) If formal police presence is not feasible, the PA, working jointly with local government and civil society, should create an unarmed national guard in uniform. Such a force can work with the local council, using the local council's building, but report directly to the nearest police station. The PA would be required to provide financial and logistical support.
- 4) The PA should seek to extend its legal jurisdiction to cover East Jerusalemites residing in areas under Palestinian judicial jurisdiction.



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