



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

*Who Needs Security?*

# **Violence against Women in Area C and their Need for Assistance and Protection**

*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 “Violence against Women in Area C and their Need for Assistance and Protection,” provides a review of one of the main problems confronting Palestinians residing in areas 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:

Women residing in area C confront a special problem pertaining to the difficulties they confront in their effort to reach the police or seek legal protection against domestic violence. The absence of the Palestinian police in this area and the difficulties the police confront in trying to reach such areas make women more vulnerable to unchecked abuse. In fact, men accused of abusing women in other Palestinian territories find safe haven in area C.

The inability of the Palestinian police to reach this area condemns many women, who cannot reach other PA areas, to a life of insecurity. It denies them the ability to submit complaints and seek justice. Women are often denied their right to inheritance. They often find themselves subjected to psychological and physical abuse and violence by the people closest to them, their own family members.

The PA has various options as it seeks to address the problem. The best option, the one most preferred by women in area C, is to establish a police presence, a police station or a patrol, capable of enforcing the law and insuring access to the justice system. This requires an Israeli-Palestinian understanding on the need to expand Palestinian law enforcement jurisdiction to area C.

Alternatively, the PA can seek to establish a wide coalition with local government institutions in such areas with the aim of establishing National Guard units to be located in the local council buildings. These units would follow a chain of command that links them to PA police. This option requires PA initiative, making the matter a priority for the security sector and insuring funding from the government.

A third option is to invest more in police mobile units. These units can be deployed on regular basis, to all locations in area C. The units can work closely with the local council and civil society and human rights groups to insure better communication with the local community.

Finally, the Palestinian police can invest more resources in promoting community policing in order to insure sustained and permanent prevention abuse of women. In this context, local residents, preferably women, would serve as deputies and friends of the police, report cases of abuse and violence, and provide information and advice to women seeking justice through the official legal system rather than through the Reconciliation Committees.





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