



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

A YEAR OF BEARING WITNESS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Year of Bearing Witness

“*He believed in nonviolence. He welcomed everyone—Israelis, internationals, anyone willing to see the truth. And he was killed for it.*”

On Awdah al-Hathalin, murdered July 28, 2025

On July 28, 2025, our friend Awdah al-Hathalin was murdered. He was shot in the chest by settler Yinon Levy while standing in the community center yard at Umm al-Khair. We have accompanied the al-Hathalin family for years. Awdah was an English teacher, a father of three young children, and a peace activist who helped make the Oscar-winning documentary "No Other Land." He was 31 years old. He believed in nonviolence. He welcomed everyone—Israelis, internationals, anyone willing to see the truth. And he was killed for it.

We sat with the family at the mourning tent. We brought what little we could—coffee, water, our presence. A few hours later, Israeli soldiers violently dispersed everyone, declaring the place a closed military area. Eighteen men from the al-Hathalin family were arrested and held for days.¹ Levy, the murderer, was released to house arrest and charged with negligent homicide. Not murder, negligent homicide.

This is what 2025 meant for us. This is what 58 years of occupation have become.

In September we learned that Maryam from Fasail in the Jordan Valley had passed away from an illness. For years we had helped Maryam get to the eye hospital in Turmus Aya for the injections that improved her poor sight. We knew her family and brought them supplies when settler violence from the Malachei Hahalom outpost made it impossible for them to graze their sheep or access water. Maryam was part of the fabric of our work in the Jordan Valley, a place we watched being systematically strangled; where Palestinian shepherds are chased from their own land by armed settlers on ATVs; where water pipes are shut off illegally; where entire communities face slow-motion displacement dressed up as anything but what it is: ethnic cleansing.



Between October 2023 and November 2025, Israeli forces and settlers killed 1,030 Palestinians in the West Bank. Two hundred and twenty-three of them were children.² These are not abstractions. Many were people we knew, from families we visited, communities we accompanied. Each number represents a life, a family torn apart, a community traumatized.

1,030

killed

233

of them children

44communities
displaced**41**new settlements
approved

“And yet we
continued.”

And yet we continued. Despite everything—despite the danger, despite knowing that what we witness changes nothing immediately, despite the weight of bearing testimony to atrocity—we continued because someone must.

The Political Situation

The political situation in Israel has become suffocating. While the world's attention remained fixed on Gaza, the West Bank descended into its worst period since the Second Intifada. But unlike previous crises, this time the Israeli government doesn't even pretend to care about international law or human rights. That's policy. That's intentional.

Israeli and Palestinian activists are being arrested left and right. We and our colleagues from other organizations face harassment, interrogations, arrests for "security" reasons that everyone knows are political. Foreign activists who came to help Palestinians during the olive harvest were deported.³ Those who tried to break the blockade of Gaza via flotillas were detained and expelled from the country. The message is clear: Dissent will not be tolerated. Solidarity will be punished. Documenting is dangerous.

The government openly discusses the annexation of occupied territory. Ministers stand in the Knesset and call for sovereignty over the entire West Bank—and 71 members vote in favor, only 13 against.⁴ Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has been given unprecedented control over the Defense Ministry's Civil Administration, effectively ending even the pretense of a temporary military occupation. In May 2025, 22 new settlements were approved—the largest single expansion in over 30 years. Then, in December, another 19 settlements were approved, bringing the total to 41 new settlements in 2025, and 69 new settlements since this government took power in December 2022.⁵

Legislative attacks on civil society accelerated. The "Associations Bill" threatened to impose an 80% tax on foreign government donations to human rights organizations like ours.⁶ An alternative version prescribes a 23% tax—but only if the organization signs a "loyalty oath" to the State of Israel. Think about that. An oath of loyalty from organizations whose entire purpose is to document what the state does illegally. This is not governance. This is silencing.

THE CLIMATE

ARRESTS

- Israeli and Palestinian activists targeted
- Foreign activists deported
- Dissent not tolerated

DISPLACEMENT

- Systematic ethnic cleansing

LEGISLATIVE ATTACKS

- 80% proposed NGO tax
- "Loyalty oath" proposed
- Silencing civil society

In this climate, simply continuing to exist as MachsomWatch is an act of resistance. Every shift we conduct, every report we publish, every Palestinian we accompany or assist—it's all a refusal to accept the current state of affairs as normal, inevitable, or justified.

As we approach our 25th year in 2026, we find ourselves thinking about what we couldn't have imagined when MachsomWatch was founded. We thought then that checkpoints were temporary. We thought that if we just documented violations clearly enough, showed the human cost plainly enough, it would make a difference. We thought Israel wouldn't allow the occupation to continue indefinitely.

We never imagined we would still be doing this work 25 years later. We never imagined we would bury friends like Awdah. We never imagined the government would be so brazen, the public so indifferent, the international community so ineffective. We never imagined things could get this bad. But here we are. And here we will remain—until the occupation ends.

We continue because the alternative—silence, acceptance, normalization—is morally unbearable. We continue because we remember that civil society has a responsibility to monitor and challenge what is done in our name.

We continue because the Palestinians we work with deserve to know that not all Israelis accept this reality; that some of us refuse to look away; that their suffering is seen, and documented, and will not be forgotten.

For Awdah. For Maryam. For the 1,030 Palestinians killed. For the 44 communities completely displaced.⁷ For the families still enduring this. For the possibility, however distant it seems now, of a different future.

For as long as the occupation continues, MachsomWatch will be there—bearing witness, documenting, refusing to look away. Because someone must.

This report details what we saw and what we did in 2025. The numbers tell part of the story: the shifts conducted, reports published, obstacles documented, appeals submitted. But the real story is in the faces of people like Awdah and Maryam; in the courage of communities that refuse to be erased; in the determination of elderly volunteers who risk arrest and harassment to stand with Palestinians; in the small acts of solidarity and resistance that add up to saying: “Not in our name, not with our acquiescence, not without our testimony.”

The Volunteers of MachsomWatch
December 2025



ABOUT MACHSOMWATCH

MachsomWatch is an organization of Israeli women volunteers who have been monitoring and documenting human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories since 2001. As the only all-women human rights organization operating in this capacity, we bring a distinctive perspective to the struggle for justice and human dignity.

Our Organization Today

Our volunteers—mothers, grandmothers, professionals, and retirees—place themselves at military checkpoints, in vulnerable Palestinian communities, and in areas of heightened tension to bear witness and document violations. Many volunteers also contribute from home, managing our social media presence, maintaining our website, translating and uploading reports, and supporting our communications work. We are united by a conviction that civil society has a moral responsibility to monitor what is done in our name and to resist the normalization of occupation.

Our Mission

MachsomWatch aims to document and expose human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories while providing a protective presence to vulnerable Palestinian communities facing violence and displacement. Through systematic monitoring and reporting, we seek to raise awareness about the impact of the occupation's policies on Palestinian daily life.

Core Activities

Our core activities include:

- Monitoring checkpoints, roadblocks, and barriers across five West Bank regions
- Providing a protective presence in the Jordan Valley and South Hebron Hills by accompanying Palestinian shepherds, farmers, and families facing settler violence
- Assisting Palestinians with permit applications to enter Israel and other administrative challenges
- Engaging Israeli youth in pre-military academies and conducting public education
- Publishing, in Hebrew and English, detailed reports that make up a comprehensive public archive



CHALLENGES IN 2025

The Situation in the Occupied Territories in 2025

This was one of the hardest years we have experienced: the violence, displacement, impunity, government's open embrace of annexation and ethnic cleansing, attacks on civil society, loss of people we knew and cared about.

For 25 years we have watched checkpoints multiply, settlements expand, restrictions tighten. Temporary measures became permanent, the abnormal became the rule, the unthinkable became routine. But 2025 was different. Some last pretense of restraint broke; some final hesitation vanished before openly pursuing policies that previous governments at least denied or disguised.

This chapter documents what we encountered in the field throughout 2025. When we write about restrictions on movement, we think of Palestinians waiting hours at closed checkpoints, unable to reach hospitals. When we describe settler violence, we remember the families whose homes were attacked, sheep slaughtered, agricultural lands and olive orchards destroyed, children traumatized. When we discuss displacement, we think of people who no longer have homes to return to.

The Infrastructure of Control: Approximately 900 Obstacles to Palestinian Movement

900 OBSTACLES

- 153 checkpoints operating 24/7
- 205 road gates
- 180 improvised barriers

HUMAN COST

- Ambulances delayed
- Students can't reach school
- Families separated
- Traffic jams for hours

These obstacles include a mix of 153 checkpoints operating 24/7, 205 road gates, 180 earth mounds, trenches, and countless concrete blocks and improvised barriers. But the numbers tell only part of the story. What they don't capture is how 172 of those road gates, which can enable traffic to pass, are usually locked, thus serving as permanent closures rather than regulated crossings. Or how approximately 150 new barriers were installed after October 2023, with 36 erected between December 2024 and February 2025 alone.⁸

The human cost is immediate and devastating. Roadblocks on major arteries create humongous traffic jams. Ambulances are delayed reaching patients; students unable to reach schools; workers cut off from employment; families separated. The World Health Organization recorded at least 108 attacks on West Bank healthcare facilities in just four months between June and September, mainly in Jenin and Tulkarem, including blocked ambulances, raided clinics, and detained paramedics.⁹

Settler Violence: Almost Five Attacks Each Day

1,800+

documented settler attacks

5 daily attacks (average),
365 - 24/7

33 Palestinians killed
in attacks

1,000+ Palestinians
injured

Between January and December 2025, the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) documented over 1,800 settler attacks that resulted in casualties or property damage.¹⁰ That averages to nearly five attacks per day, every single day of the year. We witnessed some of these attacks directly and arrived at the scene of others soon after they occurred. We also accompanied communities that were targeted repeatedly, week after week.

At least 33 Palestinians were killed during settler attacks between October 2023 and mid-October 2025,¹¹ Awdah al-Hathalin being one of them. A quarter of the Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers in 2025 were children. More than 1,000 Palestinians were injured in settler attacks throughout 2025—more than double the number in 2024.¹²

Forced Displacement: At Least 44 Communities Completely Emptied



The combination of settler violence and military restrictions created what can only be described as a coercive environment designed to force Palestinians from their land. We watched this happen by accompanying communities under threat, and we documented the pattern. Settlers establish new outposts near Palestinian villages and attacks begin immediately: physical assaults, the theft and slaughter of livestock, destruction of water infrastructure, blocking of grazing areas. Families try to keep going. The violence escalates. Eventually, the families leave.

44

**communities
completely emptied
of their 1,100+
residents**

By late December 2025, at least 44 communities had been completely emptied of Palestinian residents.⁷ The residents of these communities felt that they had no choice but to leave—for their children's safety, since they could not access water, and because the violence was relentless.

At least 2,895 Palestinians from 69 communities have been displaced due to settler violence and access restrictions between January 2023 and mid-2025, with 636 of these displacements occurring in 2025 alone.¹³

Settlement Expansion: Creeping Annexation

69

new settlements
approved
since Nov. 2022

50%

increase from the 141
approved in 2009-2022

210

settlements at end of 2025

The number of new settlements approved since the current government took power in December 2022 has added up to 69—nearly a 50% increase from the 141 settlements that existed in 2022 to 210 settlements by the end of 2025.¹⁴

The government has also begun legalizing previously unauthorized outposts, rebranding them as "neighborhoods" of existing settlements to avoid international scrutiny. By the end of 2024, shepherding outposts alone controlled roughly 786,000 dunams—14% of the entire West Bank—with 35% of this area consisting of privately owned Palestinian land.⁶

The systematic facts on the ground: settlements expanding, outposts legalized, Palestinian land seized, infrastructure built to serve settlements while Palestinian communities are denied basic services. The explicit goal, as articulated by government ministers, is to make a viable Palestinian state impossible.

The Undoing of Normal Life



The cumulative effect of all these restrictions and attacks is to make normal life impossible for millions of Palestinians. Besides the massive restrictions on movement inside the West Bank noted above, 115,000 workers who once supported their families now sit idle and poverty stricken, because the government has banned them from entering Israel since October 2023;⁶ or they risk climbing over or walking through breaches in the Separation Barrier to work in Israel illegally and be arrested if caught.

Perhaps most damaging of all, the restrictions have fragmented Palestinian society. The social fabric that binds communities together has been systematically shredded. This means of oppression is designed to make life so difficult that people will simply leave.

What This Means for Our Work

This deteriorating situation has created significant challenges for MACHSOMWATCH's monitoring work. The permanent checkpoints where we conducted regular observations were largely closed or operating on unpredictable schedules. New barriers appeared without notice in locations that are difficult to access safely.⁸ Military operations in the northern West Bank made it dangerous or impossible to access areas during critical periods.⁶

Settler violence created risks for our volunteers, particularly when accompanying Palestinian farmers and herders or attempting to monitor in areas near settler outposts. The general climate of hostility toward human rights organizations, encouraged by government rhetoric and proposed legislation, added another layer of difficulty. Some of our volunteers faced harassment. Families worried about our safety. Many pre-military academies that once invited us as speakers shut their doors to us.

So we adapted by changing our monitoring methodology to track the proliferation of new barriers rather than just monitor traditional checkpoints. We increased our protective presence in the Jordan Valley and South Hebron Hills. Despite the risks, we continued accompanying farmers during the olive harvest. And we kept publishing reports, kept requesting medical permits, kept showing up—because this is what 2025 required of us.

The following chapter details how we responded to these challenges—the specific activities we conducted, the communities we accompanied, the documentation we created, and the ways we adapted our work to remain effective in this drastically changed landscape.



CORE ACTIVITIES



Monitoring Checkpoints and Movement Restrictions

In 2025, our volunteers conducted **375 monitoring shifts across five West Bank regions** and published 375 detailed reports documenting restrictions on Palestinian movement.

Many villages we could easily visit in previous years became encircled fortresses. Main entrances were blocked with massive earth mounds. Side roads were cut off with concrete blocks. Every alternative path was systematically closed.

The devastating impact: ambulances delayed for hours, sometimes arriving too late; entire school districts disrupted when students and teachers couldn't cross barriers; farmers watching their crops rot because they were prevented from reaching their fields; families unable to visit relatives, even in neighboring villages.

We expanded beyond traditional checkpoint monitoring to track this proliferating infrastructure of control. We increased our protective presence in the Jordan Valley and South Hebron Hills where communities face both movement restrictions and direct settler violence. Our detailed reports—published in Hebrew and English on our website—create a public archive documenting how systematic restrictions made ordinary Palestinian life impossible.



Our Presence in the Field

In **Umm al-Khair**, South Hebron Hills, settlers continue to build an illegal outpost next to the community center, despite a court order secured by attorney Michael Sfard to halt construction. This is the same outpost from which settler Yinon Levy murdered peace activist Awdah al-Hathalin in July 2024. Facing relentless violence designed to force them out, the community responded by planting olive trees as symbols of steadfastness.

However, the authorities have delivered final demolition orders targeting 14 homes, the community center, and a 500-square-meter greenhouse. This latest assault continues a pattern of destruction: the community has endured over 20 demolition operations and more than 100 destroyed structures since 2007.¹⁵

In **Hammam al-Malih**, Jordan Valley, settlers attacked the community at 10 P.M. on a Thursday in October. Volunteers arrived to find two Palestinians blindfolded and shackled on the ground. Soldiers claimed the men had thrown stones. The community told a different story: Four settlers had beaten S. with a metal rod, shot in the air, opened the sheep pen, and stolen 350 sheep—the community’s entire livelihood. When volunteers relayed this account to the soldiers, it was dismissed. The army accepted the settlers' version and refused to let the Palestinian owners search for their flock. Police came only after four calls and never returned to hear testimony.



At 4 A.M. the Palestinians found their flock in Wadi Shaq: 118 sheep were butchered, 85 were wounded, and only 100 were left whole. The rest were never found and were likely stolen. The settlers had apparently tried to bring the sheep to a ranch owner who refused them, so they slaughtered the animals. No settler has been detained or interrogated. The trauma forced shepherding communities to transfer their flocks to Area A—exactly the displacement the State of Israel intends.¹⁶

Following complaints about hours-long delays at the **Container Checkpoint at Wadi Nar**, MachsomWatch volunteers positioned themselves at a distance to observe, as previous attempts to monitor close up had resulted in detention and humiliating searches. Nevertheless, Border Police immediately confronted them, insisting they were in "Area A, red, dangerous, and forbidden to Israelis." Our volunteers were taken to the Ma'ale Adumim police station under armed guard. After a short while the police released them with an implicit warning not to return. MachsomWatch volunteers, who have monitored checkpoints for over two decades, are now treated as security threats and escorted by the police, who don't know basic facts about the territory they cover.¹⁷



Earlier this year we met our friend Abdullah Tamimi at the **Qalandia Checkpoint**. Abdullah spent more than a year in an Israeli military prison under Administrative Detention (incarceration without being indicted or tried) and was released in critical condition, having lost 40 kilos due to starvation conditions. His story is not unique. Another man told us that his son had been imprisoned twice, his weight dropping from 80 to 50 kilos, and he now suffers permanent digestive problems.

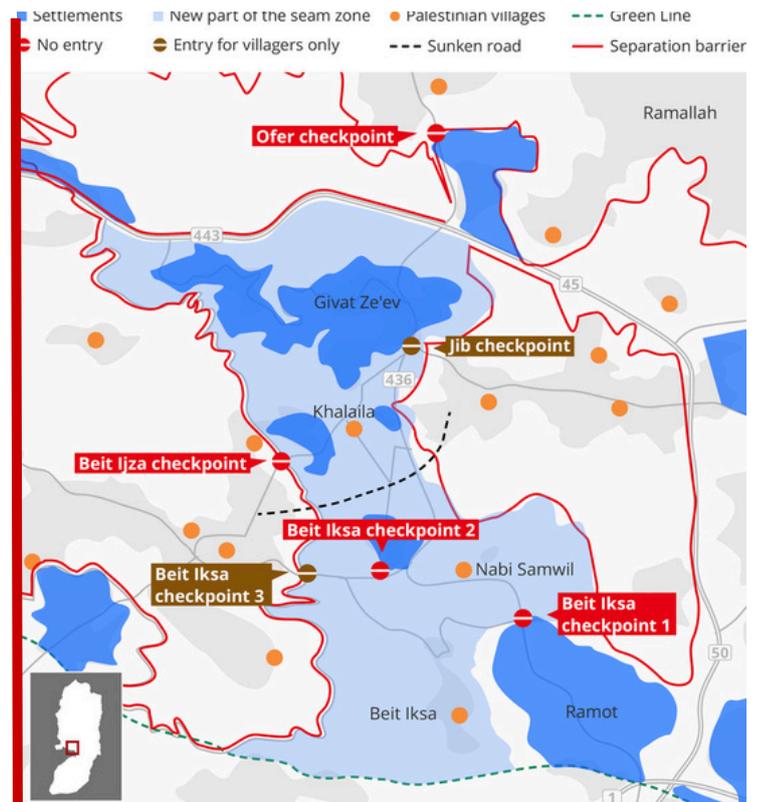
“ *When they kick and beat you there is no way there, in prison, to clean up the wounds, wipe away the blood, or clean the blow, so the wounds get infected and inflammation sets in.* ”

Two months after Abdullah's release, the signs of prison remain etched in his body and soul like a firebrand. Memories of starvation and violence return unbidden, striking his consciousness again and again. The white hair on his head and beard bear witness not only to his age but to his suffering. His body has regained half the weight he lost—20 of the 40 kilos—but the wounds on his legs and lower body from wardens' clubs and kicks are still visible, his flesh still spotted black and blue.

"When they kick or beat you," Abdullah says, "there is no way there, in prison, to clean up the wounds, wipe away the blood, or clean the blow, so the wounds get infected and inflammation sets in." He repeatedly declares, "I am strong," as if trying to convince himself. But the pain of remembering that dark side—when he was forced behind bars not knowing when he would be released—is evident in every word.¹⁸

In September 2025, a 15-square-kilometer area in north Jerusalem—stretching between Ramot and Givat Ze'ev and including the Palestinian villages **Beit Iksa**, **Nabi Samwil**, and **Khallayleh**—was declared a **Seam Zone**. Consequently, overnight, the names of all Nabi Samwil residents were deleted from the al-Jib Checkpoint list, preventing them all from returning home after entering the West Bank. Eid Barkhat received a new yellow magnetic card labeled "New Resident in the Seam Area," but nobody explained what this means or what rights it grants.

Hana, who holds Israeli citizenship, had to travel by taxi along an alternate access road, pass through two internal checkpoints, and walk up a grueling ascent just to reach her home. Amar, her husband, and their two children—one of whom served in the Israeli Air Force—live with her in a storage room in squalid conditions. As Amar is not an Israeli citizen, he cannot reside in Israel, while Hana and their Israeli children cannot live with Amar in area A of the West Bank. The prospect of go-vernment declared family reunification solving these restrictions is a pipedream. As Eid said, "Since '67 there hasn't been a single day better than the previous one. It's always harder."¹⁹



“ *Since 1967 there hasn't been a single day better than the previous one. It's always harder.* ”

Olive Harvest Accompaniment

The 2025 olive harvest became the worst in collective Palestinian memory. Between October 1 and November 30, settlers carried out 178 harvest-related attacks—an average of three per day²⁰—resulting in casualties or property damage. The violence affected 88 communities, while more than 6,000 trees and saplings were damaged, the highest number in six years.²¹ The harvest produced only 7,000-8,000 tons of olive oil, about a quarter of previous seasons' yield and a third of the annual average. The Israeli military declared 25,000 dunams of olive groves closed military zones. Where coordination with the army was available, it came very late in the season for only one or two days—far too short a time to complete harvests.²²



178

harvest-related attacks

6,000

trees damaged

25,000

dunams closed by military order

One day during the harvest at Beita, about 100 settlers descended on harvesters, beat people (who then required hospitalization), and burned seven vehicles while soldiers stood by. When volunteers returned to Beita on November 6, families reported that settlers had stolen all their harvested olives, as well as ladders and tools. They said an army officer told them this is "Israeli land" and that they have to leave.²³

Soldier's statement to MachsomWatch volunteers

“*Harvesting must stop because the settlers don't want them here. We, too, don't want the Palestinians to harvest their olives.*”

On another day in October, armed settlers attacked villagers of Duma who had come to harvest their olives with Civil Administration confirmation. When villagers began removing a road barrier to reach their groves, settlers demanded they replace it, beat and wounded the backhoe loader operator, and swore at local council members. The villagers appealed to the army's District Coordination Office. Soldiers arrived and ordered the driver to put the barrier back in place, thus preventing Palestinians from entering their own land.²⁴

Helping Blacklisted Palestinians

Throughout 2025 MachsomWatch's assistance to blacklisted Palestinians remained severely constrained, as the Center for Removal of Security Preventions continued its October 2023 suspension of permits to enter and work in Israel. Our volunteers maintained communication channels with Palestinians facing urgent medical and humanitarian needs, sending scores of emails to the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories and the Civil Administration. The overwhelming majority of requests—particularly medical permits for life-threatening conditions—faced systematic delays or rejections.

In one case documented in November, a young man suffering from cancer was denied a permit to receive radiation therapy in Israel, despite the treatment being unavailable in the West Bank. The judge reviewing his appeal, lodged by the NGO Legal Aid for Palestinians, ordered the immediately necessary treatment. Unfortunately the man died before receiving it. An elderly man with a healthcare-companion permit discovered that his wife's permit had been revoked without notice. She too died for lack of treatment.

25

The cruelty of the system is matched only by its arbitrariness: There is currently no way to address permit restrictions except in cases involving open files.

Meeting with Israeli Youth

MachsomWatch visited **eight pre-military academies** in 2025. Several others initially expressed interest in hearing a lecture but cancelled after arrangements had been made, reflecting the prevailing political climate in which discussions on human rights and peace meet with strong pushback.

These sessions often represent an opportunity for young Israelis on the cusp of military service to hear perspectives on the occupation they rarely encounter elsewhere. We explain what checkpoints actually mean: not just physical barriers but systematic denial of freedom of movement, a fundamental right from which other rights derive. We discuss the nature of human rights, what democracy means (i.e., not unchecked majority rule), and what options currently exist for addressing the injustices of the occupation.

Reception varies considerably. At some academies we encounter students who view us as traitors endangering Israel's security. At the Negev Mechina's Cholita branch, however, thirty students were remarkably receptive, expressing genuine interest in our perspectives with comments like "You're inspiring!" We left feeling we had successfully represented our struggle to safeguard human rights.

International Engagement

MachsomWatch maintained connections with international audiences throughout 2025, despite the challenging climate engendered by the war in Gaza. One of our members participated in an **international symposium in Vienna** focused on "Security and Freedom," alongside other leading Israeli peace and human rights organizations. Our presentation on a panel and the subsequent discussion highlighted our unique message and "boots on the ground" activism, which met with considerable interest and praise.²⁶

Individual MachsomWatch volunteers conducted various meetings and interviews throughout the year. These included an interview with a research student from the University of Padova; a meeting in Lausanne with **Anne Rochat** from the flotilla group, following her detention in Israeli prison; several conversations/interviews with journalists, such as journalist **Eian Yanye** from *Nederlands Dagblad*; and ongoing contact with the leader of **The Newcastle Friends of Palestine**. MachsomWatch volunteers also met with several **senior representatives of European embassies** in their offices and on field tours.

Protest Activities and Advocacy

MachsomWatch participated in several events such as the **People's Peace Summit** in Jerusalem on May 8-9, 2025, organized by the It's Time Coalition/Alliance for Middle East Peace. The summit drew over 5,000 Israelis and Palestinians, including bereaved families, political figures, and activists advocating for a just peace and coexistence.²⁷ Messages of support came from world leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron and Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, while concurrent solidarity actions took place in over 20 locations worldwide.



Another event in which MachsomWatch participated was **The Forum of Israeli Peace NGOs** retreat at Neve Ilan.²⁸

Ongoing Advocacy

MachsomWatch members consistently maintained a presence at **weekly demonstrations** across the country calling for an end to the war in Gaza and the return of all the Israeli hostages. These activities were conducted as part of the coalition called **The Anti-Occupation Bloc** and reflect our embrace of a broad role in peace and human rights advocacy, alongside our foundational identity as checkpoint monitors.

At the end of 2025 MachsomWatch volunteers led other human rights activists on a tour of the West Bank. "To believe, you have to see with your own eyes," they said afterward. The tour passed through terrified shepherding communities defending against repeated attacks and through Mu'arajat, a large village completely abandoned because residents could no longer endure the daily settler violence ignored by the army and the police. The tour left the activists understanding exactly where the country is heading.²⁹

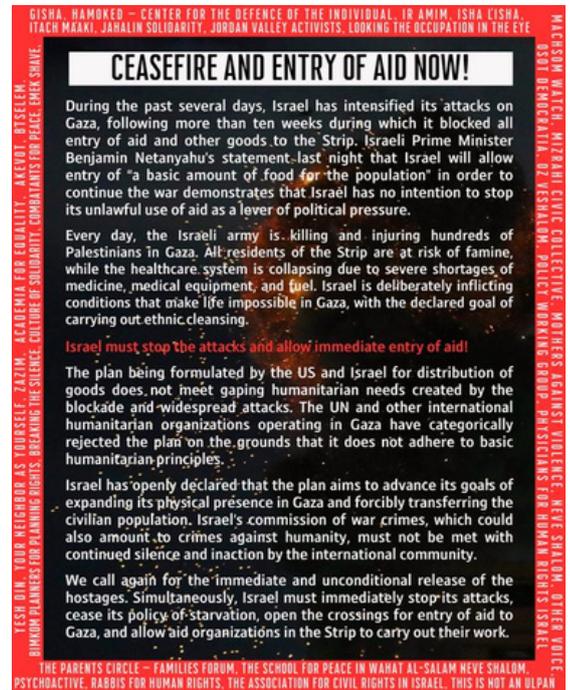


Joint Initiatives

One of MachsomWatch initiatives in 2025 was participation in preparing the joint situation report **"58 Years of Occupation, The Two-Year War in Gaza,"**⁶ published in November 2025 together with 12 other Israeli human rights organizations as part of **The Platform: Israeli NGOs for Human Rights.**³⁰

The report documents the catastrophic conditions imposed on Palestinians during the two years of war in Gaza and the continued deterioration of conditions in the West Bank, including unprecedented levels of civilian deaths, systematic destruction, induced poverty, the expansion of settlements, increased settler violence, and restrictions on Palestinian movement.⁶

In 2025 MachsomWatch joined 26 other Israeli human rights and peace organizations in issuing urgent public statements demanding that Israel immediately halt its attacks on Gazan civilians and allow humanitarian organizations to carry out their work.



Webinars

In early 2025 MachsomWatch hosted several educational webinars. We started in January with an "Emergency Meeting" with **Sefi Rachlevsky**, featuring the prominent Israeli writer discussing the processes leading to Israel's current constitutional crisis and exploring pathways for protecting civil society.³¹

This was followed in February by a conversation with Nobel Prize laureate **Prof. Aaron Ciechanover** about the future of medicine and the shift toward personalized healthcare³² and in April by another with former senior diplomat **Eran Etzion** examining regional and international threats and opportunities for Israel in the context of the Hamas October 7th attack and the ongoing war.³³

With **367 total registrants** across the three sessions joining the live events, and 47 new participants added to our database, the webinars demonstrated the potential for digital educational programming to complement MachsomWatch's traditional in-person advocacy work.

Media Coverage

MachsomWatch and individual volunteers were featured in various media outlets throughout 2025. Coverage included:

- **Daily Kos** (January) - "The Checkpoint Women Memories Documentary" highlighting Israeli activism³⁴
- **Times of Israel** (January) - "Abdallah is Free: Suffering and Survival under Israeli Occupation"³⁵
- **Arab News** (March) - Op Ed on Palestinians' lives blocked by checkpoints³⁶
- **Pressenza** (May) - coverage of urgent message from Combatants for Peace and partner associations³⁷
- **The Wire** (India, October) - article examining racist enforcement of incitement laws across the Green Line³⁸
- **Haaretz** (December) - feature on volunteer Hanna Barag in the "Inyanei Pnim" (Face Matters) series³⁹

Additionally, journalist **Beatriz Lecumberri**,⁴⁰ who covered Israel for **El Pais** and spent five years in the country, published a book in Spanish that included a chapter dedicated to MachsomWatch based on her experiences accompanying volunteers at checkpoints.

Website Analytics

Active users	Page views	Avg. engagement	Engagement rate
129,559	241,199	1m 43s	36.1%
+63%	+44%	84%+	
79,371 in 2024	167,646 in 2024	56s in 2024	quality visits

In 2025 we saw significant growth in website traffic with substantial audience growth following our April transition to the web-content management system WordPress.

Most significantly, the quality of engagement improved dramatically. Average time spent on our site nearly doubled, demonstrating that visitors are genuinely engaging with our documentation rather than simply clicking through.

Facebook

500,000+ people reached	20,000 engagements generated	4.3% follower growth	260+ posts published
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In 2025 MachsomWatch maintained a consistent Facebook presence without any paid promotion, due to account restrictions after hacking attempts were made in December 2024. Despite these constraints and an increasingly hostile environment for Israeli human rights organizations, our account demonstrated steady growth and strong content engagement.

Significantly, the majority of our reach came from non-followers, i.e., people who encountered our posts through shares, algorithmic recommendations, or searches.

Newsletters

In 2025 we fundamentally shifted our newsletter strategy from quarterly to monthly editions (14 total: 11 monthly plus three special editions). Each monthly edition featured one story per region and was designed specifically to drive website traffic. This approach succeeded.

Our newsletters generated an average of 227 clicks per edition, with 47% going to Hebrew checkpoint reports and 18% to English reports—exactly the deep engagement we sought.

Despite the subscriber decline, our newsletters exceed nonprofit benchmarks across almost every metric. These numbers indicate engaged audiences, relevant content, and brand loyalty—precisely what matters for a documentation organization working in a hostile environment.

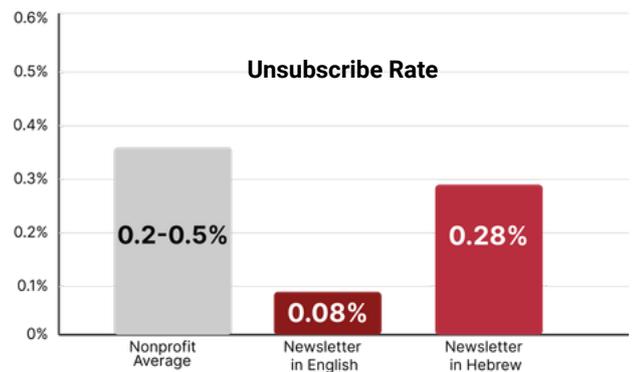
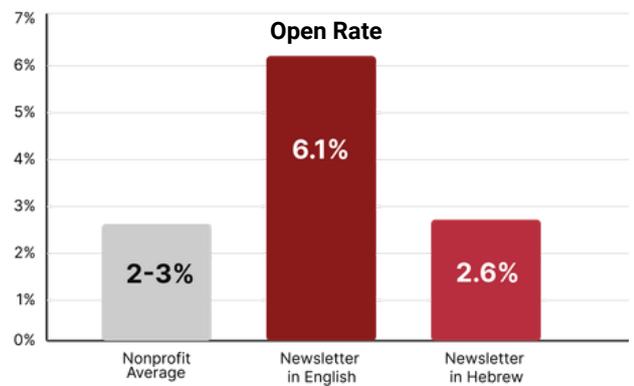
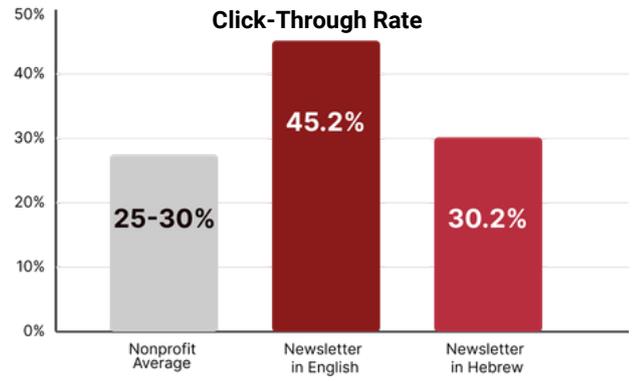
The Digital Strategy

MachsomWatch’s digital strategy demonstrates that we’re reaching the audiences that matter most: people who read our checkpoint reports thoroughly, engage deeply with documentation, and remain loyal despite external pressures.

Our digital channels functioned as an integrated system in 2025:

- Website traffic grew by 63% with engagement time nearly doubling.
- Facebook maintained a steady reach of over 500,000 people without promoted paid posts.
- Newsletters drove targeted traffic to our content.

While growing the newsletter database remains a goal for 2026, the quality of engagement across all platforms—and the interconnected system we’ve built—positions us well for continued impact.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

MachsomWatch extends its profound gratitude to the organizations and individuals who have supported our work throughout 2025. The dedication of our supporters strengthens our resolve to persist in our work, even during times of increased resistance to our message of striving for peace and safeguarding human rights.

We particularly thank the **New Israel Fund**, **Women's World Day of Prayer** (Germany), **the British Shalom Salaam Trust**, and **SIVMO** (which has been raising money through private donations in The Netherlands) for their continued partnership and trust in our mission, as well as **additional foundations and private donors** that wish to remain anonymous.

Our work would not be possible without these institutional supporters and the individual donors who have demonstrated their commitment to human rights and peace through their generous contributions!



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