



## **MONITORING TIGHTENED ACCESS RESTRICTIONS IN THE WEST BANK**

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### **Executive Summary**

Since January 2025, the security environment in the West Bank has further deteriorated, driven by an intensification of Israeli Armed Forces operations, heightened settler violence, the widening use of biometric movement restrictions, and legislative shifts that signal an acceleration of de facto annexation efforts. Key urban centres, including Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Hebron, and Ramallah, have become focal points of military crackdowns, increased raids, and heightened surveillance, impacting humanitarian access and daily life.

The Rua Yura biometric system has been expanded across key checkpoints, leading to more frequent movement restrictions, targeted detentions, and denials of access permits. Meanwhile, legislative efforts to allow direct Israeli land purchases to have exacerbated land confiscations and infrastructure control measures, reinforcing trends that undermine Palestinian territorial continuity and limit operational capacities.

SARI Global assesses that these developments will likely deepen security risks, exacerbate humanitarian access challenges, and increase displacement pressures on Palestinian communities. It is expected that in the coming months, NGOs and other commercial organisations operating in the West Bank will need to navigate a rapidly shifting landscape of access constraints, security risks, and legal uncertainties, particularly as Israeli Armed Forces operations, settlement expansion, and settler violence continue to escalate.

### **Current Situation Overview**

#### **Expansion of Israeli Armed Forces Operations (January 2025 – Present)**

Since early January 2025, Israeli forces have [intensified](#) operations across the West Bank, launching frequent raids, mass detentions, road closures, and infrastructure control measures. The [military crackdown](#) has been particularly severe in Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Hebron, and Ramallah, where tactical deployments have [increased](#) in frequency and scope, with a notable rise in aerial surveillance, drone activity, and special forces operations. We assess that these measures are aimed at both dismantling armed resistance groups and securing access routes for expanding settlements.

#### **Intensification of Movement Restrictions Via Rua Yura**

The [Rua Yura biometric system](#) has been rolled out across key checkpoints, including those in Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah, and other strategic access points. This AI-driven monitoring system has led to an increase in permit denials, prolonged detentions, and pre-emptive movement restrictions based on biometric security classifications. It is expected that further expansions of Rua Yura will increasingly restrict the mobility of specific groups, including activists, humanitarian workers, and Palestinian community leaders.



### Rise In Settler Violence and Israeli Protection Measures

Settler violence has intensified near expanded outposts, particularly around newly seized lands and key transport routes. Incidents of agricultural destruction, road blockages, and armed patrols have [risen](#), often coinciding with Israeli Armed Forces military operations. SARI Global assesses that Israeli security forces have frequently facilitated settler activity, either by providing direct protection or by failing to intervene in cases of violence. This pattern suggests a coordinated strategy to expand territorial control by gradually pressuring Palestinian communities to vacate.

### Legislative and Administrative Changes Accelerating Land Confiscation

The Knesset has advanced a new bill permitting direct Israeli land purchases in the West Bank, reducing previous military oversight and facilitating settlement expansion through legal means. Simultaneously, land confiscations have been [reported](#) across Nablus, Tubas, Qalqilya, Ramallah, and Bethlehem, where Israeli forces have cleared areas for new settler road networks and outposts. It is assessed that this legal shift, paired with military operations, reflects a broader strategy to gradually annex key areas under the guise of infrastructure development and security expansion.

## Trends and Patterns

### Militarization of Palestinian Urban Centres

Israeli Armed Forces operations in Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Hebron, and Ramallah indicate a systematic effort to establish control over major Palestinian urban hubs. The repeated use of special forces, mass arrests, and pre-dawn raids suggests a long-term strategy to weaken organized political and armed resistance groups while simultaneously tightening territorial control over strategic urban areas.

### Systematic Use of Biometric Data for Movement Control

The expansion of the Rua Yura biometric system reflects a clear pattern of AI-driven security measures being used to pre-emptively restrict Palestinian movement. SARI Global assesses that this technology is not only being used for real-time movement monitoring but also as a predictive tool to justify long-term access bans and detentions.

### Rise in Targeted Land Confiscations Along Settlement Peripheries

A clear pattern of land seizures has emerged, where military operations clear areas around settlements, followed by settler encroachment, and finally formal administrative land takeovers. It is assessed that this staged approach allows for the gradual normalization of settlement expansion while minimizing immediate international backlash.

### Suppression of International Monitoring and Advocacy

Tighter restrictions on journalistic access, increased scrutiny on NGOs, UN Agencies, and operational security measures to limit visibility indicate a concerted effort to curb international awareness of developments in the West Bank. It is expected that these measures will further constrain humanitarian actors from publicly reporting security incidents and human rights violations.

## Flashpoints and Future Predictions

### High-Risk Areas for Escalation

- Continued Israeli Armed Forces raids and increased resistance activity will likely trigger intensified military operations in Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, and Hebron.
- Settler outposts and adjacent Palestinian villages are expected to experience heightened settler violence and forced displacement efforts.





- Further militarization, new roadblocks, and settlement-linked infrastructure projects will likely fragment Palestinian movement along key transport corridors, including Highway 60 and Route 90.

### Expected Developments in The Next 6–12 Months

- Expanded biometric surveillance restricting NGO personnel, activists, and community leaders.
- New settler road networks linking outposts and established settlements, further fragmenting Palestinian access routes.
- Increased land seizures legalized under new administrative orders, making it more difficult for NGOs to secure long-term operational facilities.
- Tighter scrutiny on humanitarian workers, including targeted movement bans and increased permit restrictions under biometric tracking systems.

## CONCLUSION

Since January 2025, the security and access environment in the West Bank has become increasingly volatile, restrictive, and unpredictable. SARI Global assesses that without strategic adaptation and enhanced security planning, NGO operations and humanitarian assistance will face unprecedented obstacles in the coming months. A proactive approach in access planning, legal preparedness, and risk mitigation will be critical for sustaining operations amid the worsening conditions.

## General Advisory

**To enhance preparedness and response efforts, SARI Global recommends the following strategic actions:**

- Strengthen relationships with local communities and civil society networks to enhance intelligence-sharing and ensure a rapid response to security threats.
- Develop localized early warning systems to monitor and anticipate movement restrictions, settler activity, and military operations.
- Regularly update security risk management plans and contingency protocols to reflect evolving threats, including staff relocation and evacuation procedures.
- Enhance situational awareness through active monitoring, coordination with local authorities, and frequent security briefings.
- Identify alternative transport routes and supply chain contingencies to navigate roadblocks, checkpoint closures, and military-imposed restrictions.
- Monitor legislative changes regarding land purchases and lease agreements to safeguard operational premises and prevent forced evictions.
- Engage legal counsel and diplomatic channels to challenge unjustified access restrictions and advocate for secure humanitarian corridors.
- Strengthen advocacy efforts by documenting and reporting access restrictions, settler violence, and security disruptions to international stakeholders.
- Coordinate with humanitarian and security platforms to facilitate information-sharing, threat analysis, and strategic alignment with partners.



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