



בצלם - מרכז המידע הישראלי לזכויות האדם בשטחים (ע.ר.)

بتسيلم - مركز المعلومات الإسرائيلي لحقوق الإنسان في الأراضي المحتلة

B'Tselem – The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

B'TSELEM 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

1. ENVIRONMENT AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

2012 has been a tumultuous and eventful year: the revolutions of the Arab Spring persisted in Egypt as it solidified its newly elected government and struggled to compose its constitution; the horrifying bloodshed in Syria intensified; the standstill in the political process between Israel and the Palestinian Authority persisted, leading to the Palestinian statehood bid in the United Nations General Assembly and its acceptance as a non-member state; and the tensions between Israel and Hamas flared up once again and resulted in the week-long Operation Pillar of Defence.

2012 was also marked by the impending Israeli elections. In January 2013, Israelis went to the polls to elect a new parliament and a new government. It is yet unclear what the new government will look like and whether it will have the capacity and political will to move forward with negotiations. Consequently, it is also uncertain what policies the new government will undertake in the Occupied Territories, specifically with respect to Area C and settlement construction. In recent months, and particularly since the Palestinian statehood bid in the UNGA, the Israeli government has announced its intentions to undertake massive construction projects in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including E1 area. Punitive measures against the Palestinian Authority, such as withholding the taxation revenues that Israel collects on behalf of the PA, are also cause for alarm and constitute a major threat to the PA's stability and resilience. Additionally, tensions have been flaring in the West Bank in recent weeks leading to a sharp increase in the number of civilians killed by Israeli security forces--many in the context of demonstrations. The situation is volatile and it remains to be seen what the impact of the new government will be.

Strikingly absent from the election campaign was the issue of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the fact that Israel controls the lives of two million Palestinians who are not part of the democratic system. The lack of attention to this issue is exacerbated by the political stagnation between Israel and the Palestinians and the apparent intransience of the occupation. In the course of 2012, we marked 45 years of Israeli occupation. What was supposed to be a temporary situation appears firmly entrenched with no change in sight. The occupation continues to have a devastatingly dehumanizing effect on both Israeli and Palestinian societies, alongside the significant and ongoing violations of the rights of the Palestinians living under occupation. Israel's separation policy has become deeply entrenched over the past decade, greatly restricting interactions between Palestinians and Israelis with the exception of Israeli settlers and soldiers present in the West Bank.

In the West Bank, two and a half million Palestinians live under Israeli military occupation while settlers live in enclaves of Israeli law within the same territory. Individual acts of violence by extremist settlers periodically capture the headlines, and discriminatory and inadequate law enforcement is indeed a concern. However, the major human rights violations result from the settlements themselves: their extensive exploitation of land and

water, the massive military presence to protect them, the road network paved to serve them and the invasive route of the Separation Barrier, which was largely dictated by the settlements. West Bank Palestinians are largely confined behind the Separation Barrier and severely restricted from travelling to and from Israel. This separation and alienation perpetuates rigid stereotypes and fuels mutual hostility. Ongoing human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), coupled with continued settlement activity (itself a human rights violation), are associated with great suffering and serve as growing obstacles to peace.

In the Gaza Strip, some one and a half million Palestinians are almost completely isolated from the outside world. While people can now leave Gaza through Egypt, they cannot travel to the West Bank, with harsh implications for family ties, the economy and educational opportunities. Israel largely controls the movement of goods, thus cementing the dependency of Gaza's economy on Israeli policy that limits imports and completely prevents exports to Israel and the West Bank. It allows import of humanitarian aid and consumer goods, however raw materials for construction, industry and agriculture are much more limited, and exports are minuscule. As a result, most Gazans remain dependent on humanitarian aid rather than being able to support themselves as they did previously.

The current situation continues to cost both sides dearly. The cycle of violence, disregard for civilian life, failure to uphold the rule of law, and lack of accountability, have made people on both sides weary and wary of the possibility for peace and apathetic to the suffering on the other side. Against this backdrop, it is little wonder that many Israelis are completely unaware of the daily realities for Palestinians.

CHALLENGES AND THREATS TO ONGOING ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY

Israel controls the fate of millions of people who have no part in the democratic system. This is a dangerous situation for any democracy in and of itself. Also it highlights the importance of watchdog groups on government and military behavior in this context. In recent years—including in 2012—these watchdogs have come under increasing attack. The Israeli government has supported a series of measures against democratic institutions and critics of government policy. Some of these proposals specifically target human rights organizations like B'Tselem, focusing on our sources of funding.

In the second half of 2012 there has been a respite from such direct attacks on the legitimacy of human rights organisations. Legislation aimed at limiting human rights organisations' fundraising capacities was largely benched, mainly due to the loud and clear voice of Israel's friends in the diplomatic community from Europe and the United States, which have been critical in maintaining the unfettered civil space within which B'Tselem operates. As it appears likely that the next government will also be led by the current right-wing coalition, and is likely to become even more hawkish, B'Tselem operates under the assumption that these attacks and anti-democratic legislative efforts will resume following the elections, possibly with greater vigour. B'Tselem, together with the community of organisations which has come together to combat these attacks on their legitimacy, remains vigilant.

Such attacks only demonstrate the importance of B'Tselem's work. We remain proud to be a vital part of Israeli civil society that, in spite of the many challenges, works tenaciously to safeguard human rights on the ground. It is especially gratifying to know that we are part of a community of Israelis, Palestinians and people around the world who share our vision of a future where all Israelis and Palestinians will live in safety and dignity. Working together, we will make this vision a reality.

2. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

B'Tselem's research remains a core competency from which all of its transformative outreach efforts radiate. B'Tselem's meticulously-researched, in-depth reports continue to serve as a valuable resource and inform discourse amongst Israeli policymakers, and between these policymakers and diplomats from around the world. The reports also serve to raise Israeli public awareness regarding IHL and human rights violations. Each report is distributed via e-mail, the internet and by post to some 26,000 recipients, including Israeli policy makers and advisors, government officials, diplomats, journalists, academics and other interested individuals.

In 2012, B'Tselem researched, published and distributed four reports on human rights issues in the Occupied Territories:

- [Under the Guise of Legality: Declarations on State Land in the West Bank](#) – the report, published in March 2012, examines Israel's policy of defining territory as state land in the West Bank using expansive and selective interpretations of laws inherited from Ottoman and British rule. B'Tselem's research reveals that large swaths of land have been classified state land and designated for use by settlements. The issue of land ownership in the West Bank has been on the Israeli public agenda in the first half of 2012 following a High Court ruling that the settlement outpost of Migron must be dismantled, as it is located on privately-owned Palestinian land. In response the government decided to move the residents of Migron to a new site located on what is defined as state land. B'Tselem's executive director, Jessica Montell, wrote an [opinion piece](#) on this case and on the broader phenomena that appeared in a recent issue of Foreign Policy.
- [Human Rights in the Occupied Territories: B'Tselem 2011 Annual Report](#) - Statistics included a rise in killing by Israeli forces of civilians in Gaza (107 compared to 68 in 2010), extremely low accountability rates for harm to Palestinians by Israeli forces or settlers (only 25% of complaints B'Tselem submitted over the past ten years were investigated, with indictments in only nine cases), and high rates of violence against Palestinians by Israeli security forces. B'Tselem's 2011 report was published and disseminated at the end of March in printed, [downloadable](#) and [interactive online version](#).
- [Arrested Development: The Long Term Impact of the Separation Barrier](#) – the report, published in October 2012 (together with an [interactive presentation](#)) provides a close look at the ten years since construction began on the Separation Barrier. The harm to adjacent Palestinian communities is clear; with some two-thirds of the barrier completed, it has crippled agriculture along its route. By isolating communities from each other and from their land, the barrier has eroded their ability to survive and prevents any sustainable development. This reality violates the state's commitment to the High Court that the barrier would not seriously harm these communities.
- [Crowd Control: Israel's Use of Crowd Control Weapons in the West Bank](#) – the report, completed in December 2012 and published in January 2013 (together with an [online campaign](#)), reveals the full inventory of crowd control weapons used by Israeli security forces in the West Bank. These weapons are meant to be non-lethal, enabling authorities to enforce the law without endangering human life. In fact, however, some of these weapons are dangerous and may be lethal if used improperly. Crowd control weapons have killed and injured demonstrators and people throwing stones. This report is the

only comprehensive report detailing the various crowd control weapons at Israel's disposal and their common usage practices.

3. MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION

PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY

B'Tselem's accountability efforts serve not only to advance the cause of justice but also to deter future IHL and human rights law violations. In 2012, B'Tselem's field researchers collected 1,522 testimonies from witnesses and victims of rights violations. B'Tselem's Data Department processed testimonies and submitted 87 demands for criminal investigations with Israeli military law enforcement authorities regarding human rights violations by security forces and 22 demands for criminal investigations with the Israeli police regarding suspected human rights violations by settlers. In 2012, 95 criminal investigations were opened; 34 investigations of incidents that took place in 2012 and the rest (61) of incidents that had occurred in previous years. Of the 34 investigations of incidents that took place in 2012, 30 investigations are still under way while two were closed (in one of these, the soldier faced a disciplinary hearing). Three investigations have been opened of cases of settler violence in 2012. Three additional investigations on settler violence incidents that took place prior to 2012 were also opened during this period. In 2012, there were four indictments against soldiers and settlers for violence and property damage.

B'Tselem's Data Department staff followed up requests to investigate, working to ensure that that investigation be opened and conducted seriously. B'Tselem continues to advocate for accountability in cases submitted previously, a lengthy process that can take years.

During Operation Pillar of Defense, between Israel and Gaza, in November 2012, B'Tselem worked intensively to document and publish the effects of combat on civilians of both sides, and publically called on the Israeli military to adhere to the principles of IHL. Following the operation, B'Tselem's Data Coordination staff has been investigating all incidents of civilian casualties in Gaza. To date, 131 testimonies, pertaining to 50 events, have been collected. In addition, B'Tselem is currently composing a thorough and accurate list of all the casualties of Operation Pillar of Defense with classification to combatants and non-combatants. When data verification and investigations are completed, B'Tselem will disseminate this information, focusing on events in which violations of IHL are suspected and demanding appropriate accountability measures.

LEGAL ADVOCACY AND APPEALS

During 2012, B'Tselem continued to advance accountability through legal advocacy. In documented cases of killing, injury or other violations of Palestinians' basic human rights, B'Tselem has demanded investigations be opened by the Military Police Investigation Unit. In cases where investigations were not opened, were closed despite incriminating evidence, or remained pending a decision years after completion of the investigation, B'Tselem submitted appeals to the relevant bodies to advance due process. In 2012, B'Tselem appealed in nine cases. In four of the cases, B'Tselem retained the services of lawyers in order to examine the legal aspects of various human rights issues and in order to advance accountability through petitions to the High Court of Justice. In three cases B'Tselem cooperated with its long-time partner, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) to appeal decisions. Legal services were also used during this period for consultation and

research purposes, and legal services also enabled B'Tselem to access summaries of legal proceedings to advance research and public advocacy aimed at policy changes.

For examples of accountability actions taken, examples of legal advocacy and examples of B'Tselem video footage used to advance accountability and rule of law please see [Appendix A](#).

TREATMENT OF PALESTINIAN MINORS

According to the Israel Prison Service, the number of minors in prison has dropped steadily between 2008 (with an average of about 320 minors in the custody of security forces at any given time) to 2011 (with an average of 190 throughout the year). Since the end of 2011, though, the number of minors arrested has been steadily rising, reaching 222 by the end of May 2012. These figures do not include minors detained for questioning and released without being prosecuted. The authorities could not provide figures for such detentions.

Suspected Abuse of Minors: In the end of 2011, B'Tselem uncovered a number of cases in which Palestinian minors were suspected to have been abused by Israeli police in a specific detention facility. The reported abuse included curses, beatings, sexual threats and threats to arrest family members or take away permits. Aiming to put an immediate stop to the abuse and hold perpetrators accountable, B'Tselem surveyed the extent and nature of the abuses—including whether they were systemic—and took steps to halt the abuse through targeted engagement with Israeli authorities (including Israel's police chief). B'Tselem also made use of targeted engagement with the diplomatic community. It appears to B'Tselem that this campaign has succeeded in halting the abuse in the facility. B'Tselem continues to monitor the facility and is continuing to press for accountability actions against those responsible for the abuses.

International concern regarding Israel's treatment of Palestinian minors: [A British delegation of jurists commissioned by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2012 relied heavily on B'Tselem's research for its findings and recommendations.](#) The [delegation's report](#) refers to B'Tselem's 'No Minor Matter' report and cites B'Tselem 56 times. This report is forming the basis of UK action on this matter, and is serving as the basis for a growing coalition of European states' activities on the subject of minors.

[An article published by the Guardian in January this year](#) cites B'Tselem's [No Minor Matter report](#) on violation of the rights of Palestinian minors arrested by Israel on suspicion of stone-throwing.

B'Tselem continues to engage directly with the diplomatic community to advance the rights of detained Palestinian minors.

4. RESOURCE CENTER AND ISRAELI ADVOCACY

B'Tselem ongoing awareness-raising, dialog and advocacy on human rights in the oPt with the Israeli public and its leaders continued to be directed at policy and bringing about greater protection for the fundamental rights of the Palestinian population under occupation. In 2012, B'Tselem extended its outreach efforts, engaging with Israeli leaders (political, business and cultural) from a wide range of fields and political streams. The aim of this process is not only to reach out with B'Tselem's human right message to various sectors of Israeli society, but also to learn more about potential hurdles B'Tselem faces in its

outreach to the various sectors. In addition to this process, B'Tselem continued to engage with the Israeli military court system, initiating dialogue with key personnel including court officers, the MAG JSA, the office of the President of the Israeli Military Court of Appeals and so on.

MONTHLY STATISTICAL REPORTS AND PRESS RELEASES

B'Tselem produced and distributed monthly statistical reports and analysis, proving detailed and reliable information to the public, policymakers and the media. B'Tselem regularly sent out updates and press releases to over 16,000 individuals, including diplomats, Knesset members, journalists and policymakers. Updates were uploaded on B'Tselem's multilingual website, which in 2012 hosted 351,632 visits

In 2012, B'Tselem issued 27 press releases to local and international media, and an additional 30 press releases focusing solely on Israeli media.

Further to this, B'Tselem continues to maintain and expand its existing video archive. This serves as a repository for evidence of human rights violations (for investigations and trials) and serves as a resource for television and film personnel. Some 450 hours of video footage were added to the video archive in 2012, bringing the total to approximately 3,650 hours. In addition, B'Tselem recorded six short films in 2012 and 34 short video items addressing urgent human rights issues were disseminated using new media tools and uploaded to B'Tselem's YouTube Channel.

5. VIDEO AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

CAMERA PROJECT

In the six years of the Camera Project's operation, video has become an integral component of B'Tselem's efforts to document and monitor human rights violations, to promote accountability and to advocate for the protection of human rights. Video is now an accepted form of evidence in criminal trials and is a powerful and effective tool by which B'Tselem presses for investigations into incidents of human rights abuses. The presence of cameras in the field is now an accepted and established fact, serving to deter human rights violators and provide Palestinian communities with means of defense and a sense of agency. The innovative use of video by B'Tselem has created a new capacity with real policy implications: video played a central role in changing military policies, such as the use of attack dogs on Palestinian demonstrators, and banning the use of high-velocity teargas canisters against demonstrators (this type of teargas was proving especially harmful to demonstrators, with a number of serious injuries and a death, which is still under criminal investigation). Video has also enabled B'Tselem to bring the issue of settler violence to the forefront, using footage to demonstrate the prevalence and frequency of this phenomenon.

Through the use of video, B'Tselem has also been able to encourage public debate and enhance the reach and resonance of its human rights message, with video being used as a highly effective and compelling tool with which to present the human rights situation in the oPt to Israeli and international publics.

In 2012, B'Tselem continued to work with some 220 video volunteers located in 'hot-spots' of human rights violation. B'Tselem volunteers' footage provides a basis for B'Tselem's

accountability action which serves to promote justice and the rule of law. These accountability actions also help to deter further violations.

In a June article on the violent clashes between the Yitzhar settlement and neighboring Palestinian villages, Ynet describes B'Tselem's provision of cameras to Palestinians for the purpose of documenting conflicts between the parties, quoting Ibrahim Makhlof, Palestinian resident of Asira - Kbalih that lies northwest of the Yitzhar settlement, who explains the changes he sees since the cameras came into use: "*This is our best weapon because [the settlers] understand the power of the camera... Recently they attack only when masked, because they are afraid to be recognized.*"

Examples of media coverage of B'Tselem's Camera project:

- June 2012: [The Daily Beast: 5 Broken Cameras](#): About a Palestinian documentary that aims to show Israelis what really happens on the other side of the divide
- May 2012: [Reuters: 'Citizen Journalism' Focuses on Israeli Occupation](#)
- March 2012: Short documentary on popular Swedish news channel [SVT: B'Tselem's Camera program.](#)
- January 2012: [The Economist: Visibility before All](#)

In 2012, B'Tselem staff continued to implement training sessions for its video volunteers on an ongoing basis, as well as in the context of group workshops. B'Tselem staff met with some 60 video volunteers each month for training, supervision, support and enrichment sessions. In addition, B'Tselem staff implemented three general training video workshops for new volunteers, three general training video workshops for experienced, five individual workshops for advanced volunteers and especially skilled photographers, six individual and group training sessions specifically for women. B'Tselem's 15 Gaza video monitors were provided with supervision, technical support and training as required, primarily from B'Tselem's Gaza field research staff.

In addition to technical training, B'Tselem also carried out two workshops for a total of some 70 video volunteers on their rights to film and on legal aspects of documentation in the West Bank territories. These trainings were carried out as part of B'Tselem's joint Right to Protest project with ACRI and were delivered by ACRI legal staff.

CCTV (Fixed) Cameras: In 2012, B'Tselem operated CCTV camera packages in five locations in the occupied Palestinian territories. B'Tselem's experience has shown that CCTV cameras achieve their purpose most effectively when covering small areas defined as loci of violations; larger areas are best covered by a large number of cameras equipped with a zoom facility. Clearly visible cameras serve as better deterrents. In the first half of 2012, B'Tselem placed two new security camera packages in Faratta near Nablus and in Hebron, near Beit Hadassa, in order to document settler violence. The Faratta cameras have already documented water theft by settlers. The military required that the Beit Hadassa cameras be removed, despite having been placed with police approval. B'Tselem is currently considering an alternate location. B'Tselem also operated three additional camera packages in Shiekh Jarrah in East Jerusalem and in Al-Bwere and Tel Rumeida in Hebron.

Awards- In December, the B'Tselem Camera Distribution Project won first prize in the Freeform Documentary category of the 2012 documentary film competition of Israel's Documentary Filmmakers Forum. B'Tselem Video Department Director Yoav Gross accepted the prize on behalf of more than 200 project volunteers and organization staff in a ceremony in Tel Aviv. "It is particularly fulfilling to win a prize that is both Israeli and documentary.

Neither should be taken for granted where a project like this is concerned. Publicity for the project thus far has been mainly due to the human rights violations it is documenting - but the simple human moments captured by the videocam lens are no less important for Israeli viewers to see, giving faces and stories of their own to Palestinians living under Israeli control."

Video for Accountability and Rule of Law - B'Tselem continues to pioneer the use of audio-visual materials as a tool for IHL and human rights law advocacy and to institutionalize the use of video documentation as a form of evidence of IHL and human rights violations. Over this period, footage was used to support B'Tselem's requests to open investigations in 19 cases (15 of which regarding incidents that took place during 2012). Video footage was instrumental in opening of 24 criminal investigations; 11 of which are of incidents that had occurred in 2012 and the rest of incidents that took place before 2012. In one case, of a 'Price-Tag' attack in February 2012, perpetrators have been indicted.

Footage is also used to promote a change in policy that advances human rights. As noted above, an example of this is the case of soldiers suspected of setting a dog on a Palestinian demonstrator at Kfar Qadum, filmed by a B'Tselem volunteer in March this year. This instance is but one of eight cases documented by B'Tselem in which military dogs attacked and injured civilians over the past year. B'Tselem petitioned the MAG Corps and OC Central Command to stop using attack dogs against Palestinians entering Israel without permits and in March 2012 issued a call to the military to stop the unacceptable practice of unleashing dogs against civilians. In response to B'Tselem's complaint the MAG Corps said in January 2012 that the Military Police Investigation Unit was investigating the complaints, and in June 2012, the Israel Defence Forces declared their intention to scale down their use of dogs against demonstrators, especially in the West Bank.

In December 2012, Israeli soldiers attacked Reuters' photographers in Hebron, stripped them and threw tear gas canisters at them. Media accounts report that the soldiers "accused" the journalists of working for B'Tselem. On the same evening, Israeli soldiers assaulted a B'Tselem volunteer videographer, who was detained on the pretext of attacking soldiers. He was taken to the Hebron police station and released in the early morning hours, when he was taken by ambulance to a Hebron hospital for medical attention. In response, B'Tselem wrote to OC Central Command Major General Nitzan Alon requesting that he issue an immediate notice to Israeli security forces in Hebron, reminding them that B'Tselem employers and volunteers as well as any other photographers must be permitted to document events in the city. B'Tselem also requested that the Israeli military take action against the soldiers who attacked the photographers and disrupted media documentation. In addition, B'Tselem is undertaking public advocacy actions to promote awareness on the right to film.

B'TSELEM IN THE MEDIA

In 2012, 13 op-eds by B'Tselem staff were published in national and international media networks. B'Tselem was mentioned in local and international media and blogosphere over 1,600 times in 2012. B'Tselem's video footage was used by media providers over 300 times in 2012, both in Israel and internationally. In 2012, B'Tselem issued 27 press releases to local international media, and 30 press releases focusing on Israeli media.

For examples of op-eds published by B'Tselem staff in 2012, examples of B'Tselem video footage used by media providers and examples of Media Mentions of B'Tselem's work please see Appendix B.

NEW MEDIA

In 2012, B'Tselem's increased technological capacity enhanced its outreach to the Israeli and international publics. B'Tselem increased the reach and resonance of its human rights message using tools such as social networks and related multimedia technologies, and by leveraging its research amongst multiple local and international target groups.

B'Tselem's website: B'Tselem's upgraded website is a central clearinghouse of human rights information. In 2012, B'Tselem's website hosted 351,632 visits. The website links directly to **B'Tselem's video site** (YouTube Channel) and **social networks** (Facebook and Twitter), allowing visitors to easily share B'Tselem's information and materials through their own networks, reaching thousands.

New interactive map: B'Tselem's interactive map was launched in March 2012. The map, available on B'Tselem's website, offers B'Tselem's multi-layered data in a graphical context and in an interactive and visually appealing format. Content includes location and video footage of human rights violations; borders, the Green Line and municipal borders; settlements and their boundaries; built-up Palestinian areas; the Separation Barrier (planned, approved, voided, under construction and completed), checkpoints and agricultural gates in the Separation Barrier, as well as additional information. Updated information pinpointing the location of new human rights violations including testimonies, news items and video are continuously uploaded by B'Tselem's staff on the map, giving the viewer a broad view of the complex situation on the ground.

B'Tselem's outreach through social networks: B'Tselem's international (English) Facebook page is now 'liked' by more than 13,700 people. While members (likes) are internationally-based and largely English-speaking, the largest group originates in Israel, comprising some 30% of followers. Like B'Tselem's Hebrew Facebook page, the largest age group of members is that of 25-34-year-olds (post-army-service in Israel). Most referrals to this page are from B'Tselem's footage on YouTube, and through B'Tselem's website. Since the introduction of B'Tselem's Hebrew Facebook page in November 2011, more than 7,400 have 'liked' the page. Interestingly, while this page obviously serves an Israeli audience, the membership is varied and includes many English speakers. B'Tselem's Hebrew Facebook page has reached a high-point of over 97,000 views in one week over this period (June 4th – 10th 2012). Posts to B'Tselem's Facebook pages in this period covered topics such as the threatened demolitions in Susiya; Palestinian administrative detainees' hunger strike, accountability for Israeli military action that led to suspected IHL violations and misuse of what are intended to be non-lethal crowd-dispersal means. In addition, B'Tselem's Twitter profile currently has more than 5,800 followers, while B'Tselem's YouTube Channel is Israel's leading non-profit channel; it has been viewed 2,938,142 times since its inception in September 2006 and currently boasts 2,972 subscribers. The channel offers 203 video items.

Online Campaigns:

- **67 Seconds On... Understanding the Terms Used When Discussing the Occupation:** In May 2012, B'Tselem launched "67 Seconds on..." a Hebrew-language online lexicon that targets an Israeli audience, primarily centrist Israelis. The lexicon consists of concise, impartial and accessible definitions of 40 fundamental concepts that frequently arise when discussing the occupation, yet whose meaning is not always clearly understood. The selected concepts include: protected population; international humanitarian law;

Universal Declaration of Human Rights; separation barrier; administrative detention; settlements; outposts; checkpoints; Areas A, B and C; Fourth Geneva Convention; Civil Administration; Green Line; state lands; and many more. The definitions have been developed by B'Tselem's team of professional researchers, and draw on their extensive expertise. Each week, one or two definitions are published through B'Tselem's Facebook Page and on our website. The campaign has already achieved over 2.3 million impressions.

- **Administrative detention and detainees' hunger strike**: In 2012, B'Tselem led a campaign on detention extensions of administrative detainees. The goal of the campaign was to put a human face on the data and numbers of administrative detention. B'Tselem published a virtual postcard on each administrative detainee whose detention might be extended by Israel, for a total of eight postcards released on B'Tselem's website and Facebook Pages. In addition, B'Tselem monitored the individual cases and provided updates on detainees who have been released and those whose detention was lengthened. B'Tselem also followed the detainees' hunger strike, which lasted six weeks. In addition to providing regular information, B'Tselem published contextual information on the legal aspect of administrative detention, emphasizing the moral aspect of administrative detention and calling on Israel to release administrative detainees or charge and trial them. B'Tselem's information served as the premier resource for the media, and its data was used by hundreds of media actors worldwide. B'Tselem's Executive Director, Jessica Montell, published an op-ed in the *Jerusalem Post*, titled [Time for a New Deal on Administrative Detention](#). B'Tselem continues to monitor the number of administrative detainees and the lengths of detention, with a monthly freedom of information request from the Israeli Prison Authority.

New Media Increased reach of Research Reports: In March, B'Tselem published its 2011 report on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories. The report, which was released on B'Tselem's website in a printable and an interactive version and posted on B'Tselem's Facebook pages, was shared repeatedly and viewed by thousands of people via social networks. Internet media networks also picked up and disseminated information from the report (e.g.: Ynet: B'Tselem: Rise in number of civilians killed in conflict). B'Tselem's Arrested Development report, published in October 2012, was also accompanied by an interactive presentation on B'Tselem's website and Facebook Pages, including two short films (one of which was featured in the *Guardian*). The report was also accompanied by an article published in *Yedioth Ahronot*'s Friday supplement. B'Tselem's *Crowd Control* report was also featured extensively in Israeli and international media, and was accompanied by an online campaign, which included videos and illustrations.

B'Tselem Community: B'Tselem continues to find that materials from our website are often shared via e-mail and social network platforms (such as Facebook and Twitter), extending outreach significantly. To leverage this, the B'Tselem Community was launched in 2012, a Facebook group made up of B'Tselem's supporters who share and promote B'Tselem's content and information through their own networks. The creation of an intimate community of people who are committed to B'Tselem's values serves to amplify the reach and resonance of B'Tselem's human rights message.

6. INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

As an Israeli organization reporting on HR in the oPt, B'Tselem's respected research and information is often cited in diplomatic communications and human rights reports. Also, B'Tselem's materials are accessed by a broad range of international NGOs.

In 2012, B'Tselem continued to maintain and cultivate relationships with diplomats stationed in Israel and the oPt, as well as with leading international agencies and NGOs, and key policy-makers and opinion shapers. In 2012, B'Tselem regularly responded to requests for information from ambassadors and embassy staff and was invited to meet visiting dignitaries—including government ministers. B'Tselem engaged in over 100 briefings and field visits with diplomats and policymakers, thereby enriching international policy discourse. The field visits consistently received overwhelmingly positive reactions from participants, with many stating that the visits—beyond serving them as excellent sources of information—framed and concretized human rights issues in the oPt.

B'Tselem continued to advocate with the international community abroad, meeting with high-level officials and leaders. In 2012, B'Tselem's European Representative and other B'Tselem staff engaged in a range of briefings in European cities, including Berlin, London, Brussels (meeting both EU and Belgian diplomats and policymakers), Copenhagen, Stockholm and Geneva.

B'Tselem's European-based staff member and USA office in Washington DC worked to inform governments in Europe and the USA, providing them with updated information on IHL and human rights issues in the oPt. International advocacy foci included Israeli policy with regards to Palestinian minors, settler violence, the Separation Barrier in Area C and Jerusalem, planned demolitions in the southern Hebron Hills, and Gaza. The impact of this advocacy work can be seen in the frequency with which B'Tselem's research is cited in EU and US policy briefs and reports on IHL and human rights law.

B'Tselem USA conducted extensive public advocacy activities and public events geared at the American Jewish community, other faith-based communities, university students, and members of the US Administration and Congress. In 2012, B'Tselem USA staff continued to provide a strong and principled Israeli voice to the American public through speaking engagements at conferences, panels and forums and regular meetings and briefings at the US Department of State, on Capitol Hill and at synagogues, churches and universities across the country.

For additional information on B'Tselem's European and North American advocacy, please see [Appendix C](#).

7. ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012

Stopping the planned forced displacement of Bedouin communities in E-1 and Protecting Palestinian communities in the southern Hebron Hills: Through close cooperation with a range of human rights actors, from November 2011 through early 2012, B'Tselem was successful in preventing the planned expulsion of the Jahalin Bedouin from E1 adjacent to Jerusalem. The impact of this campaign reinforced for us the value of timely action in partnership with a strategic coalition of local and international actors. B'Tselem leveraged not only our

experienced staff, but also the network of other actors with which we work: NGOs, diplomats, foundations and the media. Our success on E1 and the lessons learnt from working within coalitions has enabled us to move quickly and with increased effectiveness on the issue of threatened demolitions and displacement of Palestinian communities in the southern Hebron Hills in Area C.

Through efficient cooperation and concentrated advocacy and public outreach efforts, B'Tselem was a central member of a coalition that has succeeded in putting the issue of southern Hebron Hills on the international diplomatic community's agenda. In May, B'Tselem led a briefing and tour for diplomats to the South Hebron Hills, in partnerships with the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI); Rabbis for Human Rights; Breaking the Silence; Bimkom – Planners for Planning Rights; COMET – Community Energy and Technology in the Middle East. B'Tselem helped to organize in a subsequent briefing to the South Hebron Hills under the auspices of the Jerusalem EU representative's office which culminated in a press release by the EU expressing grave concern about planned demolitions in the southern Hebron Hills. Following extensive work by the coalition of organizations, the EU followed-up this statement by conducting a Heads of Missions tour in the southern Hebron Hills in August 2012, led by B'Tselem and its partners. Following the tour, a rare Heads of Missions statement was released objecting to the planned demolitions. We continue to monitor and advocate on this topic, particularly considering Israeli government's declaration of its renewed intention to build in E-1 and the persistence of demolition threats against Palestinian villages in southern Hebron Hills.

Highlighting the issue of Palestinian Minors in Detention: B'Tselem had identified the rights of Palestinian minors in detention to be an issue of critical importance, and has directed a considerable amount of resources towards research and advocacy on the issue. The issue of Israel's treatment of Palestinians minors has attracted international attention and concern, and B'Tselem's research and advocacy work was often cited as the central source of information. For example, an article published by the Guardian in January this year cites B'Tselem's No Minor Matter report on violation of the rights of Palestinian minors arrested by Israel on suspicion of stone-throwing. A 2012 British delegation of jurists commissioned by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office determined that Israel "sees each Palestinian child as a potential terrorist [creating] a cycle of injustice." The delegation's report refers to B'Tselem's 'No Minor Matter' report and cites B'Tselem 56 times (more than any other organization). The report also adopts B'Tselem's recommendations as outlined in its report. The United Kingdom is currently advancing on this issue, independently as well as in coalition with the EU. In collaboration with World Vision and Catholic Relief Services, as well as other actors, B'Tselem continues to focus on the issue of minors in detention as part of its advocacy strategy for the coming year.

In July 2012, B'Tselem's researcher, Naama Baumgarten-Sharon, was invited to attend a session of the Knesset's committee on Children's Rights, following the publication of B'Tselem's report No Minor Matter: Violation of the Rights of Palestinian Minors Arrested by Israel on Suspicion of Stone-Throwing. The report and the issues it pertains to were featured prominently throughout the session and served to inform the discussion and the Israeli MKs and representatives of Israeli NGOs, Israeli social services, police, Israeli prison Service and several government ministries in attendance.

Enhancing the right to protest: In 2012, B'Tselem continued in its efforts to protect and enhance the right to protest and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in the West Bank. Together

with its partner organization ACRI, B'Tselem developed and implemented actions that explored and exposed systemic violations of rights of West Bank protesters and HRDs, supported them through accountability and public advocacy and improved Israel's injurious policies during demonstrations and against demonstrators. B'Tselem monitored demonstrations across the West Bank on a weekly basis and worked to ensure that all demonstrations are documented by volunteers of B'Tselem's video project. Footage collected during demonstrations served to advance accountability in many different incidents, as well as to bring about policy change regarding the use of certain crowd dispersal means and unlawful practices used by Israeli security forces against Palestinian demonstrators, such as high-velocity teargas canisters and live-fire. The focus on demonstrations can be seen in B'Tselem's latest report, published December 2012, which provides a detailed study of crowd-control means used by the military against Palestinian demonstrators and illustrates the problematic regulations associated with these means and the illegal and abusive practices that happen regularly during demonstrations. B'Tselem is the only organization which has researched this issue extensively and which provides such a comprehensive analysis of Israeli crowd-control means and their usage against demonstrators.

Change of military policy on the use of attack dogs against Palestinian demonstrators: In 2012, B'Tselem welcomed the positive results of its efforts in demanding a change in the military policy regarding the use of dogs to attack civilians. Following the case of soldiers suspected of setting a dog on a Palestinian demonstrator at Kfar Qadum in March this year, B'Tselem documented eight additional cases in which military dogs attacked and injured civilians. B'Tselem petitioned the MAG Corps and OC Central Command to stop using attack dogs against Palestinians entering Israel without permits. In March 2012 B'Tselem issued a call to the military to stop the unacceptable practice of unleashing dogs against civilians. In January 2012, in response to B'Tselem's complaint, the MAG Corps stated that the Military Police Investigation Unit was investigating the complaints, and in June 2012, the Israel Defense Forces published their intention to scale down their use of dogs against demonstrators, especially in the West Bank. This is an example of B'Tselem's use of its video footage to advance the rule of law and promote policy change.

Influencing the military's conduct during Operation Pillar of Defense: Together with a broad group of international and Israeli organizations, B'Tselem's engaged in efforts following Operation Cast Lead in 2008 that aimed to press for accountability and to articulate clear legal and normative guidelines for Israeli military conduct. Following Cast Lead, B'Tselem pressed for investigations into casualties. It also worked closely with the diplomatic community and it worked with the Israeli establishment—including through its engagement with the Turkel Commission. It also used its field presence in Gaza to monitor the use of force in Gaza. It appears that the efforts to advocate for adherence to IHL during the 2008 hostilities and to promote accountability following the hostilities —work in which multiple actors, including B'Tselem, engaged—was successful in promoting a greater degree of prudence during Operation Pillar of Defense in November 2012. During this latest round of fighting it was evident that there were clear changes in tactics and in the deployment of force by the military. This suggests that calls on the military and government to learn from the lessons of Cast Lead regarding illegal military conduct and disproportional use of force impacted the military and encouraged greater adherence to IHL.

8. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING & LESSONS LEARNED

B'Tselem's Management Information System (MIS) is coming into use to provide statistical reports and respond to requests for information, as well as internal, organizational information needs. Originally, B'Tselem maintained a number of different databases for various forms of data collected over the past twenty years that included testimonies of human rights violations, casualties, house demolitions and footage of rights violations. Material on these databases overlapped and required time-intensive actions in order to analyze important phenomena. In order to make research and documentation more efficient, B'Tselem undertook to integrate all of this information into a single MIS, which is now fully constructed. B'Tselem is now in the process of inputting data from over twenty years of documentation. The MIS is already making many processes more efficient, such as the ease of following trends for specific human rights violations and accountability action over specific periods. Once the data input is complete, the MIS will facilitate many aspects of B'Tselem's work. We anticipate the system's capacity to strengthen our efforts to advance accountability by cross-referencing different types of information on a single incident – such as testimonies and video-footage - and allowing us to link correspondence with military officials with the initial and supporting documentation of each particular case.

Outreach Analysis: New media tools have significantly expanded B'Tselem's outreach in 2012, with thousands exposed to B'Tselem's messages weekly. B'Tselem is now able to monitor its outreach efforts and the success of its various campaigns using web-analytics such as Piwik, and Facebook and YouTube administrative tools. B'Tselem's staff takes advantage of these developments to fine-tune B'Tselem's human rights messages and select the best outreach tools for each target population.

CRM (Customer Relations Management program)/ Contacts System: B'Tselem provides information through various means to a consistently growing number of journalists, organizations, policymakers, diplomats, public figures, and individuals. Over the past two years alone, more than 1,000 people were added to our mailing lists and many thousands more became members on B'Tselem's social network pages. B'Tselem is working to improve organizational efficiency and facilitate data dissemination using a new CRM program. B'Tselem is now in the implementation stage of this part of the project, and has already been able to coordinate mailing lists to filter out outdated contact information. Eventually, the CRM will be able to automatically perform many of the tasks B'Tselem has performed manually to date, such as adding subscribers, keeping track of who receives what information and whether they act on it, etc.

B'Tselem's CRM is being developed to significantly enhance B'Tselem's ability to manage its relationships with key stakeholders—including policy-makers, diplomats, journalists, and donors.

Backup of Data: B'Tselem's increased and growing technological capacities enable it to coordinate existing data, as well as to make data available to other human rights organizations, members of the media and researchers. In order to ensure sustainability of this development and of B'Tselem's increased capacity, it is vital that data and technological tools be backed up. For this purpose, over this period B'Tselem enhanced its backup technology, adding servers and a robotic backup system

Analysis of lessons learned:

- New Media tools have proved a highly effective means of getting our messages out; sharing reports and sharing footage of IHL infringements. Social networks have extended our outreach tremendously, and materials from our website are often shared via e-mail and social network platforms.
- Field trips with diplomats, bloggers and local and international opinion leaders have proved immensely effective in helping us to reach our target groups and contextualizing IHL issues. Response from participants has taught us the great value of these in leveraging our research and reaching out to international decision-makers.
- Outreach to military attaches stationed in embassies to Israel, including tours and briefings, has proved an effective means of expanding the breadth of B'Tselem's advocacy
- We continue to reap the benefits of having a tangible organizational presence in the US and in Europe. With specific staff members focused on the international agenda both in Israel and in the US and Europe, we are much better positioned to effectively impact international policy discourse.
- The knowledge gained by B'Tselem's US office staff is enabling B'Tselem USA to fill an important role in assisting our Israeli partner organizations navigate the policy world in Washington DC as well as other relevant communal networks in the US. Our US staff is increasingly being approached by other Israeli NGOs that wish to be advised on how to work effectively within the American arena.
- The upgrading of B'Tselem's database of human rights violations (our new MIS) is already proving effective, enabling a search of IHL violations data collected by B'Tselem over the past twenty years. Making information available in this way turns it into a potent tool to advance accountability and to research trends in human rights and IHL issues.
- B'Tselem's spearheading of action aimed at preventing the forced displacement of Bedouin communities in E1 outside of Jerusalem to a site with potential health risks has reinforced for us the value of timely action in partnership with a strategic coalition of local and international actors. B'Tselem leveraged not only our experienced staff, but also the network of other actors with which we work: NGOs, diplomats, foundations and the media.

Maximizing Resources of the Human Rights Sector: B'Tselem sees itself as an integral part of a broader coalition of Israeli, Palestinian and international human rights organizations, and believes that positive impact can be best achieved through joint efforts by a range of actors. To this end, B'Tselem remains a cornerstone of the Israeli human rights discourse, functioning to shape the agenda, avoid replication of activities and promote cooperation and collaboration. This is evident in the role that B'Tselem plays in important joint efforts around subjects such as preventing torture and ill-treatment, stopping displacement and demolitions in the southern Hebron Hills and protecting human rights defenders. In addition, B'Tselem takes part in coalitions and forums advancing human rights in Israel and the oPt, such as the Forum of Directors of Israeli Human Rights Organizations.

9. GENDER IMPACT

As a human rights organization, B'Tselem is committed to full equality, both as a component of its workplan, and in the daily functioning of the organization.

All of B'Tselem's work considers gender impact. Core actions such as research and reports, consider and discuss the unique effect of human rights violations specifically on women and men when possible. At the most basic level, research relates aggregates the number of men and women impacted (e.g. the research reports on torture and ill treatment specify the number of women affected interviewed).

Women Video Volunteers: Over the first half of the year, B'Tselem reached out to Palestinian women who have the potential of becoming volunteer video monitors. This outreach has succeeded in raising the number of women volunteering in B'Tselem's Video Project by more than ten percent. Some 53 women are now taking part in the program, and over this reporting period, the women participated in several training sessions for women (individual or small-group training), as well as general group workshops.

In 2012, B'Tselem produced a DVD consisting solely of footage filmed by Palestinian women who volunteer with B'Tselem's camera project. The DVD, which was also available on B'Tselem's website, was released on March 8th to mark International Women's Day.

Despite what is noted above, it is important to point out that many of the violations that B'Tselem documents and works to prevent predominantly affect men most directly.

B'Tselem's staff continues to explore ways to increase the sensitivity of its research and analysis to gender perspectives.

10. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

OBJECTIVE	OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	OUTCOMES IN 2012
Providing documented information to the Israeli public and the international community about violations of human rights in the West Bank and Gaza Strip	1. 1,000 first-person testimonies 2. Addition of some 200 hours to the video archive in 2012, bringing the total to approximately 3,200 hours. 3. At least 4 reports to be published 4. Monthly e-mail updates/ newsletters will be sent to a mailing list of over 11,000	1. Number and quality of testimonies 2. Hours of footage and coverage received 3. Reports produced and distribution scope	1. 1,522 testimonies collected 2. Addition of some 450 hours of footage to the video archive in 2012, bringing the total to approximately 3,650 hours. 3. Four published reports 4. Monthly e-mail updates/newsletter s sent to a mailing list of over 16,000 individuals.
Promoting accountability of Israeli perpetrators of human rights	1. At least 100 requests to investigate violations submitted to	1. Number of requests to investigate submitted 2. Investigations	1. 109 requests to investigate violations submitted to authorities.

violations	authorities 2. Follow-up on investigations opened and accountability action (e.g. indictments)	opened/closed; indictments and other accountability action	2. 95 criminal investigations opened, 34 of which of incidents occurring in 2012. 3. Follow-up on investigations opened and accountability actions
Generating media coverage of human rights issues and serving as an ongoing source of information for media professionals	<p>1. New media tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 250,000 visits to B'Tselem's Website. • At least 10,000 Facebook post feedbacks • B'Tselem's footage will appear at least twice a month on prime time news programs in Israel 	<p>1. Monitoring website visitors, Facebook activity and media usage of footage</p>	<p>1. New media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 351,632 visits to B'Tselem's website in 2012. • Over 16,200 Facebook Post feedbacks on B'Tselem's Hebrew Page. • B'Tselem footage appeared twice a month on average on prime time news programming in Israel.
	2. At least 25 press releases	2. Tracking issuing of press releases and consequent media coverage	2. 27 press releases to local and international media, and an additional 30 press releases focusing on Israeli media.
	3. 17 video items will be made available using new media tools.	3. Assessing broadcasting of films on mainstream and social media sites	3. Six short films and 34 short video items addressing urgent human rights issues were disseminated using new media tools and uploaded to B'Tselem's YouTube Channel.
Recommending and advocating for policy changes to ensure greater protection of human rights	1& 2. At least 50 tours, presentations & briefings	1&2. Conducting tours, briefings and presentations and monitoring feedback from participants	1&2. Over 100 tours, presentations and briefings were conducted during the period
	3. New media campaigns	3. Quantifying exposure to/views of campaign material	3. In 2012, B'Tselem launched four new-media campaigns.