Another aspect highlighted by the report concerns the way in which evictions take place. For example, Israeli police witnessing the eviction and demolition of Palestinian homes are disproportionately present by blocking roads and using unnecessary force to evict affected families. “When they[the IDF] came to expel us, it was as if we were in a war zone,” said one Palestinian member of the delegation. “It was four in the morning. Immediately, the settlers occupied our house, using our personal belongings.” As a result, the deportees are homeless and receive no assistance from the Israeli occupying authorities.

Source: Housing Rights of Palestinians (OPT).

The number of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is approximately 3 million. The scale of the evictions is also incredible: only in 2013, 604 structures were destroyed by the Israeli army! Or 804 Palestinians were driven from their homes in one year and at least 1,600 others were affected by the demolitions! Israeli settlers destroy Palestinian property and still enjoy virtual impunity. In the West Bank, the army demolished several houses and water tanks. The tents have been dismantled several times, including in completely destroyed villages.

Source: Amnesty International 2013

This has “naturally” led people to flee these areas to seek refuge elsewhere. That is why there are many Palestinian refugee camps. (…)

Source: Kamel Doraï, Urbanization and segregation of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon (FR), Website Migrinter, 2013.

Evictions - the consequences

People are focused on keeping their homes and are not able to work for better status in society – children and women do not have the opportunity to go to school or have a world outside their homes.

Source: Regional Council for the Unrecognized Bedouin Villages (RCUV)

Expulsions - quantitatively

There are 120,000 inhabitants in unrecognized villages. In this community, there are 1000 homes demolished each year, with 50% of children evicted.

Expulsions: the causes

The Bedouins of the Israeli Negev (south - desert) are the indigenous peoples of the region. The Israeli government has refused to recognize their villages since the creation of the state in 1948. There is therefore no official way to receive building permits, and all the houses built are under threat of demolition. People are rebuilding their homes with the cheapest building materials and are again under threat of demolition. The logic of the state is that Bedouins abandon their way of life, their communities, the land as a resource and their villages and accept the government’s wish that they settle in the poor cities of concentration built by the government.