

حملة - المركز العربي  
لتطوير الإعلام الاجتماعي  
7amleh - The Arab Center for  
the Advancement of Social Media



# Intensification of Surveillance in East Jerusalem

**Since October 2023**

**December 2024**

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Designed by: Majd Shurbaji

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## Introduction

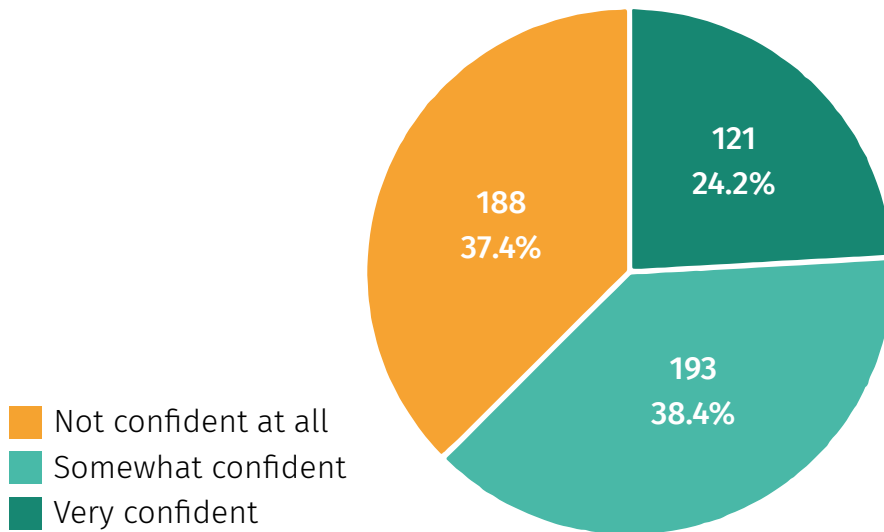
This report examines the intensification of surveillance and policing in Jerusalem since October 7th 2023. Researchers conducted 15 interviews with Palestinian Jerusalemites in July and August 2024 and surveyed online an additional 502 Palestinian Jerusalemites between September and October 2024. Our findings reveal surveillance and policing, on- and offline, increased exponentially following October 7th, 2023. Arrest rates are at an all-time high, with thousands held in Israeli prisons, subject to abuse and torture, many of them without trial. Hundreds more have been fired from their jobs, expelled or suspended from educational systems, or are simply unable to travel to and from work as a result of surveillance and policing on- and offline. This report details the implications of these developments on Palestinian Jerusalemites' civil and political rights.

## Israeli Surveillance and Policing in East Jerusalem

Israeli forces occupied the West Bank and de facto annexed East Jerusalem in 1967 (with de jure annexation in 1980). Since then, Palestinian residents of the city have been defined under Israeli law as permanent residents of the Israeli state, rather than Palestinian citizens of Occupied Jerusalem. As permanent residents, Palestinian Jerusalemites are denied essential civil rights protections, including the right to privacy—an obligation Israel, as the occupying power, is required to uphold for the occupied population under international law.<sup>1</sup> Instead, they are subject to the authority of Israel's Ministry of National Security and the Israeli police, which are the main bodies responsible for the control and execution of Israeli policies in East Jerusalem. Survey results indicate such policies have impacted Jerusalemites' confidence in protecting their data and privacy. 37.4% reported feeling not at all confident about protecting their data and privacy online, while 38.4% said they were somewhat confident.

1. Israel maintains comprehensive legislation to protect the right to privacy. As detailed below, this includes Section 7 of the Basic Law on Human Dignity and Freedom; Protection of Privacy Law; Registrar of Databases; Credit Data Service Law; Secret Monitoring Law (1979); the Computer Law (1995); Genetic Information Law; and Freedom of Information Law. This legislation is in accordance with the United Nations' recognition of privacy as a fundamental human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Yet, as noted in previous reports by Zamleh, Palestinian citizens of Israel, Palestinian Jerusalemites, and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza continue to be systematically denied such rights in many cases.

## How confident are you in your ability to protect your data and privacy online?



Jerusalemites have endured decades of intrusive surveillance and policing by Israeli authorities.<sup>2</sup> With significant spikes since the second intifada (2000-2005) and the continuous Israeli settlement expansion into Palestinian neighborhoods across the city. Indeed, such tactics have not only increased but intensified. Today classic surveillance methods—wiretaps, spy rings, home invasions, interrogations, searches—are augmented by digital and increasingly automated surveillance systems. This includes CCTV surveillance equipped with biometric capacities, social media scraping, cyber-espionage, drone reconnaissance and predictive policing systems.<sup>3</sup> The Mabat 2000 facial recognition system has tracked Palestinian residents in the city since the early 2000s. Security officials have said their cameras provide views of 95% of the old city.<sup>4</sup> As of 2017, Israeli authorities have relied on predictive policing algorithms to scrape social media and other telecommunications, generating recommendations of who should be detained based on their likelihood to commit what they consider to be an act of terror, which is ambiguously defined and often includes peaceful political speech and activity. Thousands have been arrested based on these systems’ recommendations, which digital rights experts say are prone to error and fail to stem violence.<sup>5</sup>

The saturation of surveillance technologies across the city has led journalists, researchers, and even Israeli officials to describe Jerusalem as “one of the most surveilled places in the world.” A 2021 report by 7amleh revealed how new surveillance systems

2. Cohen, Hillel. *The Israeli Security Agencies and Israeli Arabs: 1948-1967*. (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2010); Tawil-Souri, Helga.

“Surveillance Sublime: The Security State in Jerusalem.” *Jerusalem Quarterly*. (2016): 68. 65-65.

3. For more refer to Who Profits, “Big Brother” in Jerusalem’s Old City: Israel’s Militarized Visual Surveillance System in Occupied East Jerusalem, November 2018, [link](#)

4. Yanovsky, Roy. “A Terrorist stabs, returns to the scene the next day, is caught.” November 18, 2024. *Ynet.com*. [link](#)

5. Brown, John. “Arrest of Palestinians for Potential terror brings new meaning to minority report.” 24 April, 2017. *Haaretz*. [link](#)

have systemically eroded Palestinians' freedom of movement, expression, and right to protest.<sup>6</sup> According to a 2022 report by Amnesty International, surveillance infrastructure across East Jerusalem is "omnipresent" and means "Palestinians not only live in a state of insecurity, but they are also at risk of arbitrary arrests, interrogation, and detention."<sup>7</sup> Many detained are accused of "incitement to terrorism" an act that is vaguely defined, and can often entail something as benign as sharing a song or liking someone else's post on social media.<sup>8</sup>

Since October 7th 2023, Israeli authorities have escalated their surveillance of Palestinians in the city. Moveable checkpoints, police patrols, and home invasions have proliferated. So have the authority's reliance on social media, drone reconnaissance, CCTV, and biometric monitoring to monitor and detain civilians.<sup>9</sup> Reports of dehumanizing treatment, like searching elementary school children in the old city, detaining commuters at checkpoints without cause, and conducting raids of private homes, hospitals, and schools without cause, are rampant.<sup>10</sup> Arrest rates are at an all-time high throughout the region. According to the United Nations, as of September over 10,700 Palestinians have been arrested by Israeli authorities since the war began in the West Bank including Jerusalem.<sup>11</sup> Many remain held without trial under what Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem has identified as abusive conditions.

It is impossible to ascertain how many held by authorities are Jerusalemites accused of incitement to terrorism. Many detained are held without trial in administrative detention—held without trial on the grounds of their supposed intent to break the law in the future—before they are eventually released without appearing in front of a judge. However, the available numbers indicate a concerning trend. As of May 1, 2024, 109 indictments were issued for incitement to terrorism against Jerusalemites alone.<sup>12</sup> This was a marked increase from past years. Between 2018 and 2022 only 84 indictments for incitement were filed against Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinian Jerusalemites. Alongside detention and arrests, a report published by 7amleh in Summer 2024 surveyed 409 Palestinian citizens of Israel and found that over 50% knew someone questioned by Israeli authorities for their social media posts and more than 70% engaged in self-censorship for fear of retribution.

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6. "The Expansion of Surveillance in Jerusalem and Impact on Jerusalemites Digital Rights." *7amleh*. October 2021. [link](#)

7. "Automated Apartheid: How Facial Recognition Fragments, Segregates and Controls Palestinians in the OPT." 2023. Amnesty International. [link](#), 67.

8. For more on this see: Goodfriend, Sophia. "When Palestinian Political Speech is Incitement." *Jewish Currents*. September 2021. [link](#).

9. See "The Occupation Completes Installation of New Cameras." *Najah News*. 28 February 2024. [link](#)

10. Basumi, Nadia. "How does the Israeli Occupation Fight the Al-Aqsa Flood." 17 February 2024. Noon Post. [link](#)

11. "IOF arrests 10,700 Palestinians in West Bank Since Oct. 7th" *Al Mayadeen English*. 14 Sept. 2024. [link](#).

12. Correspondence with Adalah, numbers taken from a freedom of information request received on 30 April 2024.

## Methodology

This report draws on mixed qualitative methods. Researchers conducted 15 in-depth and unstructured interviews with Jerusalemites from across the city between the ages of 19 and 45. In-depth interviews were intended to understand changes in surveillance and policing and the impact on interviewees' quality of life. Researchers spoke to students and working professionals from Abu Tor, Silwan, Beit Hanina, and the Old City.

Researchers also dispersed a survey via Whatsapp to 502 Palestinian Jerusalemites equally distributed across age groups (18-65). 40% of the respondents lived in Beit Hanina, Shuafat, and Kafr Aqab. 35.8% of the respondents came from Silwan, the Old City, Wadi Joz, Issawiya, and Al Tur. The remaining 24.2% of respondents came from other neighborhoods, including Sheikh Jarrah, Mount of Olives, and Ras Al Mud.

The survey was designed with experts to analyze social media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter, Snapchat) and messaging applications usage (WhatsApp, Telegram, and text message) privacy concerns on and offline, and changes among Palestinian Jerusalemites since October 7th, 2023. Our findings are supplemented by a survey of relevant literature, including scholarly analyses of surveillance and reports published by civil society organizations.

## Preliminary Findings

Zamleh's research reveals new surveillance tactics work alongside an increase in policing and criminalization of Palestinian political speech to erode Palestinian civil rights and entrench insecurity across the city. Palestinians across the city report feeling less secure using digital platforms and messaging applications, have left social media platforms or censored their online speech, and some have faced drastic restrictions to their freedom of movement. Although this report focuses on civil rights, the intensification of surveillance and policing has had severe implications on economic and social rights, such as the right to education and to an adequate standard of living.

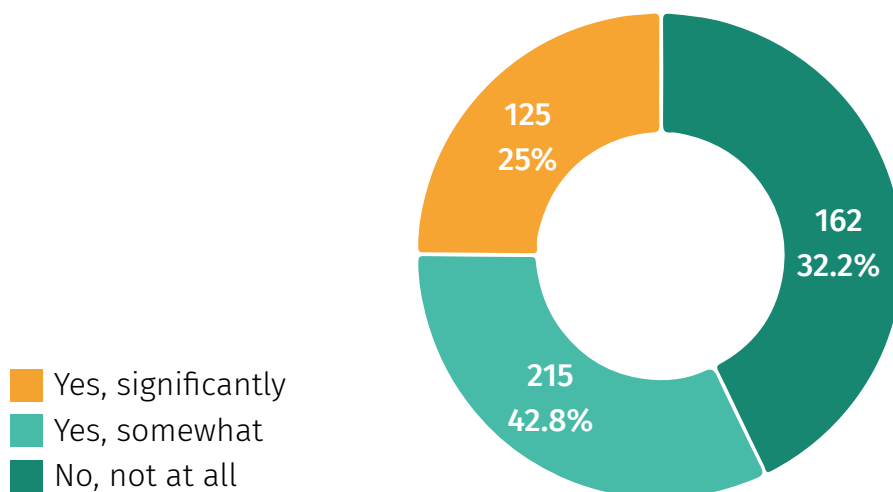
## Human Rights Implications

Privacy, freedom of movement, and freedom of expression are all enshrined in the UN Declaration of Human Rights. They are also enshrined for Israeli citizens in Israel's Basic Law on Human Dignity and Liberty (1992). However Tamleh has found that the intensification of surveillance and policing has eroded Jerusalemites' human rights. Our investigation centers on the implications for Palestinians' freedom of movement, freedom of expression, and right to privacy.

### Freedom of movement

After October 7th, 2023, Israeli authorities closed a number of checkpoints which Jerusalemites living in neighborhoods beyond the separation barrier rely on to commute to work and school in the city.<sup>13</sup> Some of the checkpoints were partially reopened within a week or so, many remained closed for at least a month and when they were opened, were subject to random closure. 57.2% of survey respondents reported their movement outside of Jerusalem and within the city had changed since the conflict began.

#### Has your movement outside of Jerusalem changed since the conflict began?



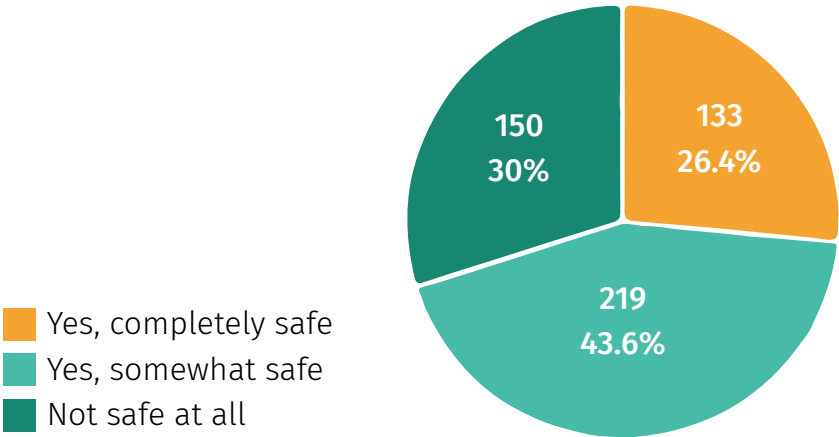
Movement restrictions also impacted economic security and education across the city. Many Palestinians quit or lost their jobs as a result of the restrictions, some schools went online until the winter holiday. The policy had an impact on Palestinians' freedom of movement. The majority of those interviewed reported cuts to their incomes because of the restrictions and everyone in school reported losing out on class-time because of the closures. For those who could only attend classes online, educational progress was curtailed by months of online learning.

13. "Closing Checkpoints Around Jerusalem to Palestinian Entry." 7 November 2023. Association for Civil Rights Israel. [link](#)



Since then, closures have come without notice and most checkpoints that remain open have heightened security protocols. Commuters report dehumanizing treatment, strip searches, detainment, confiscation of phones, and deadlock traffic. 30% of survey respondents reported feeling not safe at all when moving through the city, while 43.6% reported feeling only somewhat safe.

**Do you feel safe when moving between different areas of Jerusalem?**



Those who reported feeling insecure referenced Israeli authority’s unpredictable behavior. One resident of Beit Hanina explained she avoided commuting from her home to work in Sheikh Jarrah in the first months of war. “The first few months were the hardest. We were too scared to take a bus from Beit Hanina to Sheikh Jarrah. Schools were online for a few months, because students and teachers just couldn’t get there.” She said, “even from other neighborhoods in Jerusalem, travel was so risky. People were getting stopped at checkpoints all the time, I didn’t even go to work then.”

In the year since the war began, Israeli police have erected temporary checkpoints across the city to search residents and close off neighborhoods or refugee camps.<sup>14</sup> It is a practice that intensifies following periods of unrest. After the 2021 uprising, for example, checkpoints effectively cleaved Sheikh Jarrah off from the rest of the city. These checkpoints have proliferated over the last year, particularly around the old city, Silwan, and Sheikh Jarrah. Periodically they have been used to seal off refugee camps from the remainder of the city for days at a time.

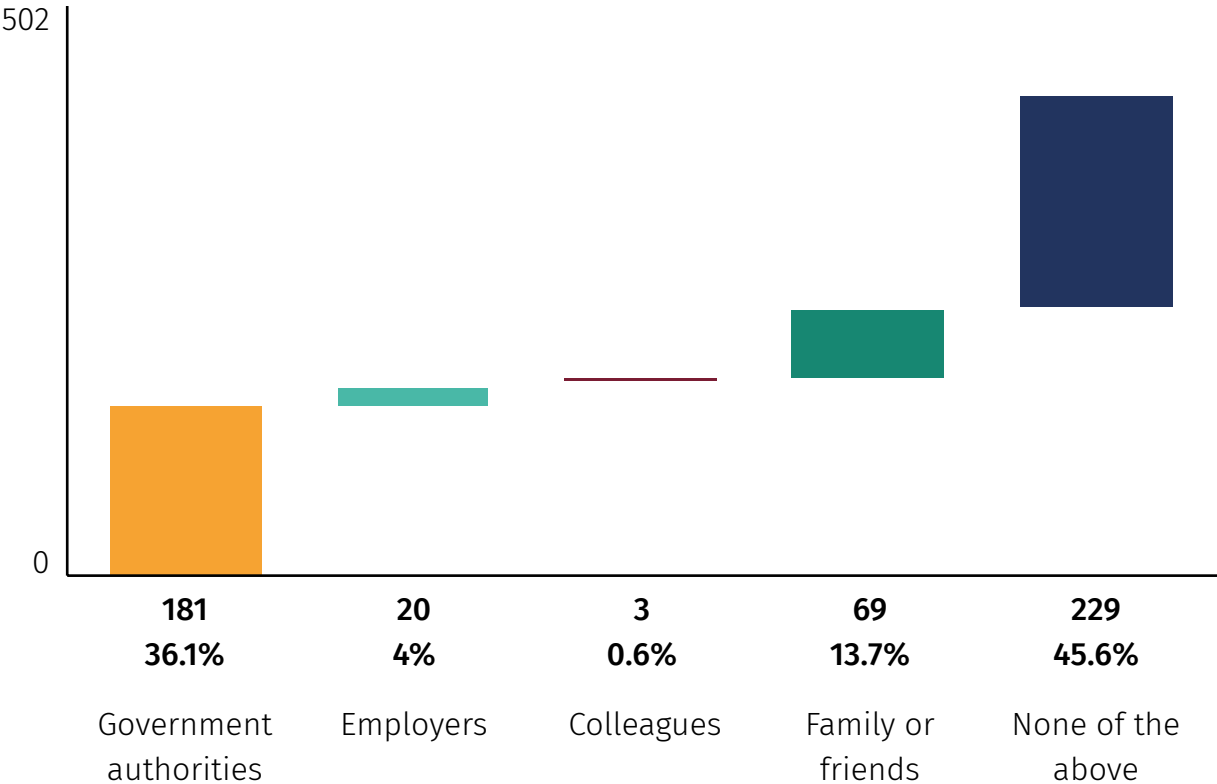
Those interviewed report that soldiers guarding these makeshift barriers are not simply searching personnel or vehicles, they are also demanding Jerusalemites hand over their personal phones, opening secure messaging applications or social media sites, and scrolling through private correspondences. News of these tactics went immediately

14. “Welcome to Hell: The Israeli Prison System as a Network of Torture Camps.” 5 August, 2024. *B’Tselem*. [link](#), 11. [link](#)

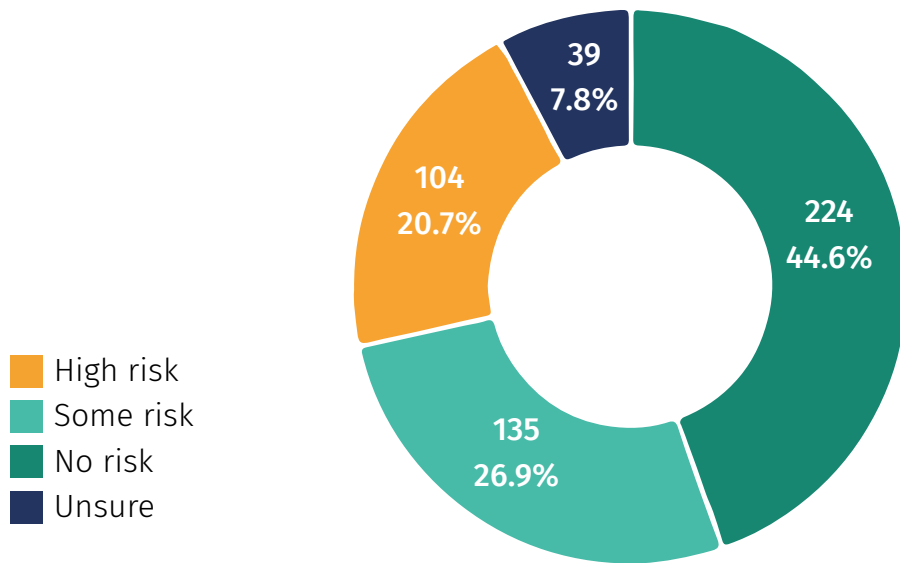
viral after October 7th, 2023. Reports of young men being arrested for something as innocuous as sharing news articles or liking social media posts, accused of inciting violence or planning to conduct a terrorist act. As one 22-year-old woman from Wadi Joz said: “The Israeli police will walk over and say, “give me your phone.” They will search through it and take you into detention. In the first few months it was really intense, they would lose people in the prison.” As one 26-year-old resident of Silwan said, “The checkpoints are all around the city, they’ll (border police) stop people and arrest them if they see something on Instagram or in Telegram. I know so many people it happened to, I left for Haifa at the start (of the war), so did a lot of young people. They knew that if they stayed in the city they’d be in trouble.”

An escalation in these policing tactics has impacted Jerusalemites' use of social media and the internet writ large. 65.3% of respondents said they felt that using social media posed a personal risk and 36.1% of participants said they were most concerned about surveillance from Israeli authorities. 23.3% of respondents said they deleted or hid content on their devices due to privacy concerns.

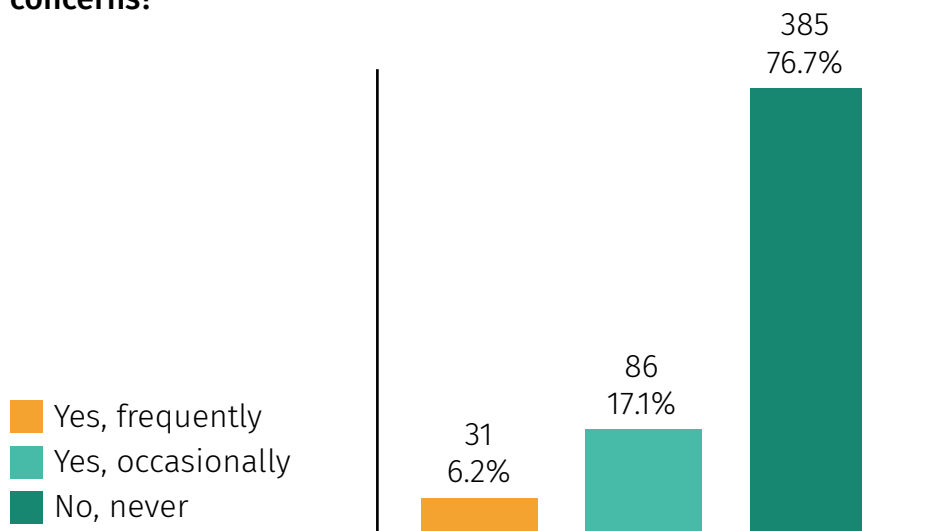
**If you are concerned about surveillance, which group or institution worries you the most?**



### How much personal risk do you feel using social media poses to you?



### Have you deleted or hidden content on your phone or social media due to privacy concerns?

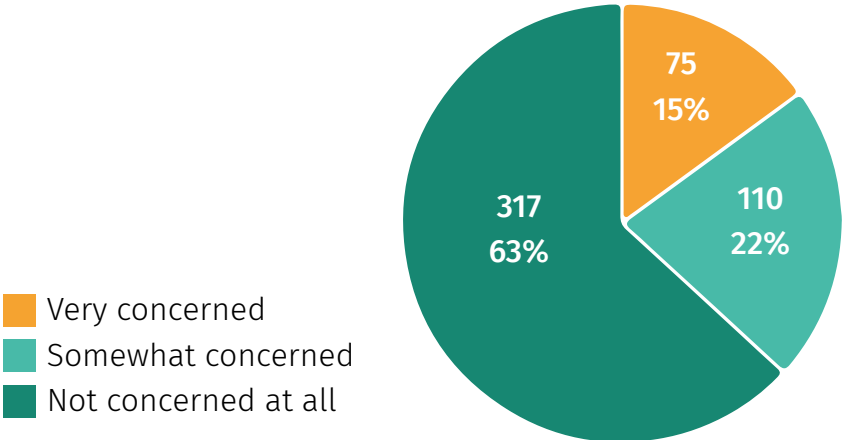


## Freedom of Expression

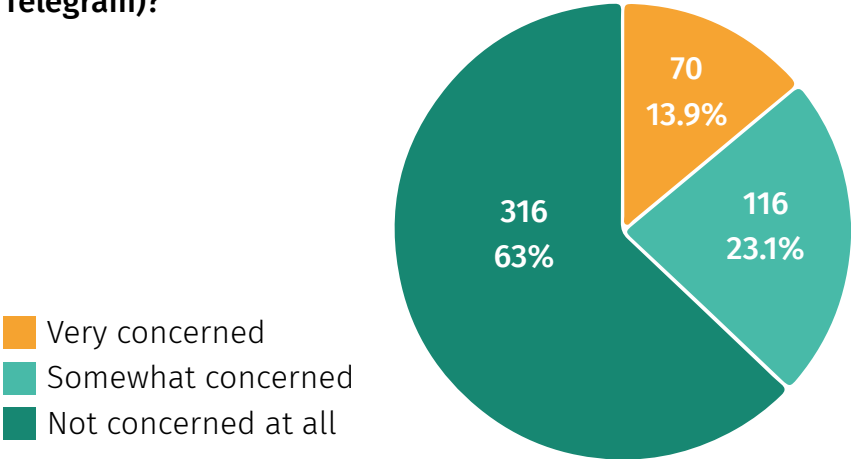
Surveillance and policing on- and offline have severely restricted Jerusalemites' freedom of speech. 7amleh has noted two interrelated developments. First, police searches, described above, have pushed a quarter of the people surveyed, residents of the city, to delete social media and messaging applications from their phone for fear of being accused of sympathizing with a terrorist group or inciting violence. Second, surveillance by authorities as well as Israeli colleagues and classmates online has pushed many interviewed to stay off social media altogether. Those who remain on networks report policing their own speech, censoring their posts. Amidst sky-rocketing numbers of arrests for charges of incitement—usually amounting to expressing political opinions on social media networks—such efforts do little to abate the fear that anything someone says or does online will be used to justify their detention and arrest. As one 20-year-

old woman from Kafr Aqab said, “I don’t use social media at all because it’s clear it’s all monitored. People go into prison, get released, post something, and get arrested again.” Survey results indicated Jerusalemites had a significant amount of anxiety about being monitored across digital platforms. 37% percent of Jerusalemites were concerned about being monitored on social media platforms. 37% were concerned about being monitored on messaging applications. A majority of respondents--63%--reported no concern about monitoring on specific platforms.

**How concerned are you about being monitored on social media platforms?**



**How concerned are you about being monitored on messaging platforms (e.g., WhatsApp, Telegram)?**



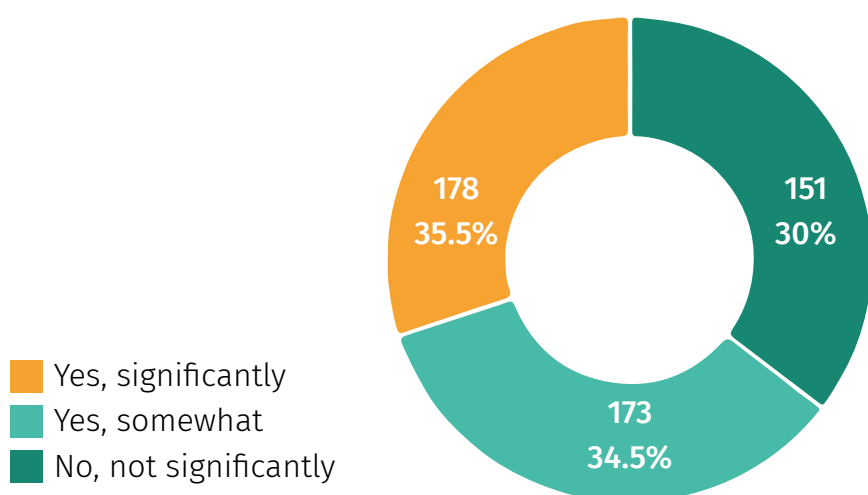
Alongside analog policing, Israeli authorities have relied on expansive surveillance powers over social media and telecommunications to make arrests across the city. Social media scraping algorithms flag profiles deemed to be at risk of committing criminal conduct, which justify practices like home invasions, arrests, and detention without trial even if no criminal offense has been committed. Although the number of people held in administrative detention has steadily risen each year, since 2023 the number

has skyrocketed. According to Addameer, more Palestinians are held in administrative detention today than any year since 1967. The number of minors held in administrative detention has increased by 1,178% alone.<sup>15</sup> “It’s effective” one 28-year-old resident of Silwan said, “it’s made everyone terrified of saying anything.”

Such practices come amidst an enormous restriction of Palestinian Jerusalemites media environment—Israeli authorities have raided Al Jazeera’s offices in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and ordered the international media organization to stop operating in the occupied Palestinian territories.<sup>16</sup> The Committee to Protect Journalists has documented a total arrest of 69 journalists in the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem since the war began.<sup>17</sup>

These practices have had a chilling effect on Palestinian social media users—the majority of those surveyed said that surveillance was eroding their freedom of expression, and many attributed their silence to risks of government surveillance. 65.6% of survey respondents agreed that surveillance affected their freedom of expression on social media and messaging platforms and 62.5% said it impacted their freedom of expression offline too. Additionally, 65.3% of respondents reported feeling as though using social media posed a personal risk, with 36.1 % concerned of government authorities tracking their activity online.

### Do you think surveillance affects your freedom of expression on social media or messaging platforms?

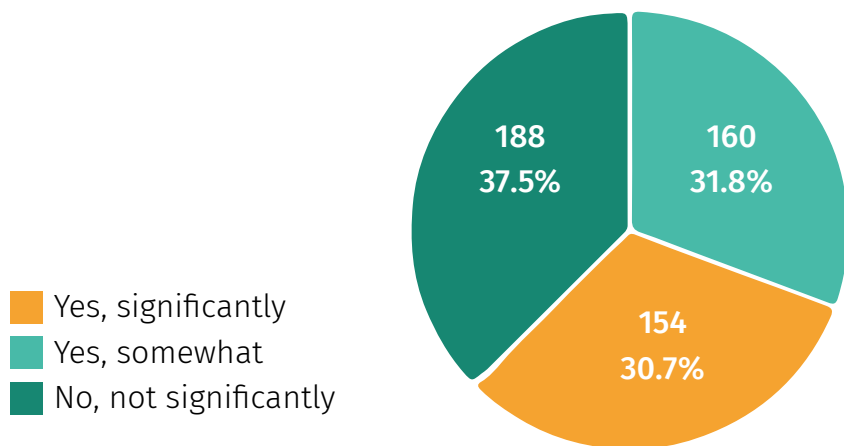


15. “Arbitrary Administrative Detention: A Crime with Unlimited Scope.” *Addameer*. July 2024.

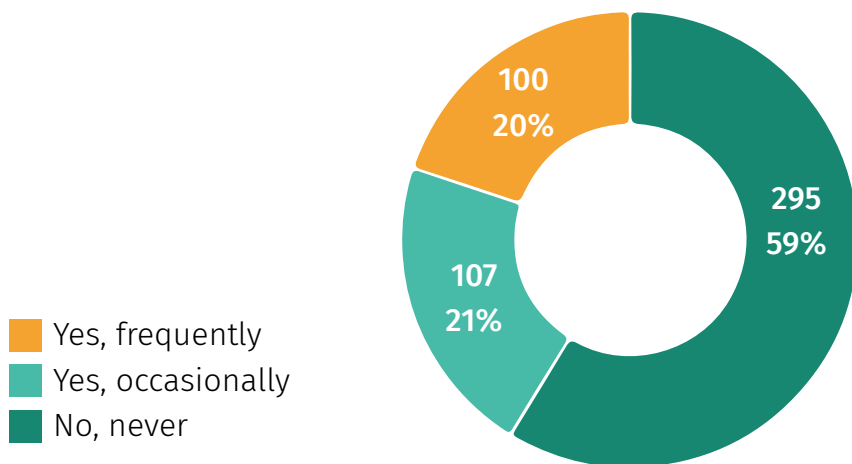
16. “Israel Raids and Shuts Down Al Jazeera’s Bureau in Ramallah and the West Bank.” 24 September 2024. *Associated Press*. [link](#)

17. Daoud, Doja et al. “Arrests of Palestinian Journalists Since Start of Israel-Gaza War.” 7 October 2024. *Committee to Protect Journalists*. [link](#)

### Do you think surveillance affects your freedom of expression in real life?



### Do you censor what you post on social media?



In interviews, fear of surveillance and detention by authorities was said to be compounded by colleagues and classmates policing and monitoring online speech. Five, out of the 15 interviewees, of those who worked or studied in West Jerusalem said they had stopped posting altogether. Six reported being blocked by Jewish Israeli colleagues since the war began. Slightly less than half of the survey participants reported similar behavior. 41% of those surveyed said they censor what they publish on social media and the same number reported that they censor what they share through private messaging applications.

## Surveillance and Harassment by Private Actors

Other respondents experienced more systemic harassment from Jewish Israeli colleagues. At Hadassah College, Jewish Israeli students made fake profiles posing as Palestinian students to surveil their Palestinian classmates. In the first few months of the war, they compiled a 55-page report complete with screenshots of social media posts made

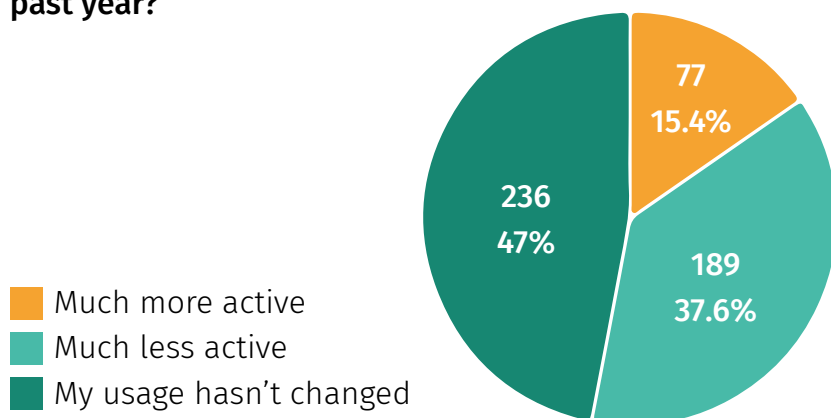
by their classmates and submitted the information to administrators, according to a Palestinian student currently enrolled in the college. Some students were investigated, suspended, and one was expelled for an entire semester. She had changed her profile photo to a picture that read “I stand with Gaza.”<sup>18</sup>

This was part of a broad regional trend sparked by the start of the war and documented across Palestinian and Israeli press. According to Adalah, in the first six months of war, 36 Israeli universities and colleges initiated disciplinary proceedings against a total of 124 Palestinian students of posts on their private social media accounts. Nearly half of these cases (47%) ended in the student’s suspension or expulsion.<sup>19</sup> Lawyers for many of those investigated by their institutions and Israeli authorities emphasized their clients had not posted incendiary content—they had simply posted or reshared content empathizing with the civilians killed in Gaza.<sup>20</sup>

## Chilling Effects

In 2021, *7amleh* reported online monitoring by Israeli authorities, employers, and classmates had a chilling effect on Palestinian social media users.<sup>21</sup> However, in 2021, those surveyed years ago emphasized that the international support—and mass movement within the city against settler expansion—had helped to offset such intimidation. Many took to online platforms anyway. That is no longer the case. Everyone interviewed said that they refrained from posting any content related to the war online for fear of reprisals from Israeli authorities, Israeli co-workers and employers, and Israeli classmates and school officials.

### Have you become more or less active on social media and messaging platforms in the past year?



18. For more on a similar incident at Hadassah see: Kadri-Ovadia, Shira. “A Student at the Kibbutz Seminary Claimed the College ‘Embraces Terrorist supporters’ Was Permanently Expelled.” 25 December 2024. *Haaretz*. [link](#)

19. “Repression of Palestinian Students in Israeli Universities and Colleges.” Adalah. 9 May 2024. [link](#).

20. “Law passed criminalizing viewing of ‘pro-resistance content.’” Al Najah News. 8 November 2023. [link](#) Kadari-Ovadia, Shira. 2024. “Israeli University Suspends Eight Students Claiming The Supported Hamas.” 1 January, 2024. *Haaretz*. [link](#)

21. “The Expansion of Surveillance in Jerusalem and Impact on Jerusalemites Digital Rights.” *7amleh*. October 2021.

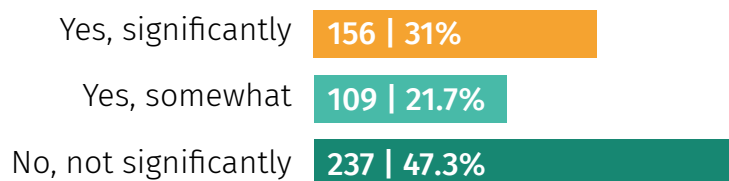
## Right to Privacy

Privacy is enshrined in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. As the UN’s special rapporteur on privacy explains, “privacy enables the enjoyment of other rights: the free development and expression of an individual’s personality, identity, and beliefs, and their ability to participate in political, economic, social and cultural life.”<sup>22</sup> Recognizing how vital privacy is to human dignity and freedom, Israel’s legal code has long enshrined privacy protections for Israelis. Yet as noted above, residents of Jerusalem along with Palestinian citizens of Israel and those living across the West Bank and Gaza are systematically denied those rights under the pretense of safeguarding Israeli national security writ large. Mass surveillance in Jerusalem has eroded Palestinians’ sense of privacy in the city since Israel’s occupation began and has been sharpened by the proliferation of surveillance infrastructure—most notably cameras, drones, and surveillance towers—in recent years.<sup>23</sup> Accompanied by intensified policing and criminalization since October 7th, 2023, these tactics stoked widespread fear and denied Palestinian Jerusalemites full participation in political, economic, and social life in their city.

After October 7th, 2023, Israeli officials, like Itamar Ben Gvir, have intensified policing in the city. Roadblocks and searches described above have restricted many Jerusalemites to their homes, especially in the first months of war. Surveillance of social media and digital communication technologies, as well as the increase of drone reconnaissance and CCTV surveillance, has made many feel as if nowhere is safe from monitoring by Israeli authorities. “Privacy doesn’t exist in Jerusalem,” one 20-year old resident of Kafr ‘Aqab told researchers, “there’s no such thing.”

Survey results indicated the majority of respondents had noticed a change in police presence and checkpoints in their neighborhoods as a result of these policies. 52.7% of survey respondents said that police presence and number checkpoints in their neighborhoods had changed.

### Have you noticed any changes in the number of checkpoints or police presence in your neighborhood over the past year?



22. “Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy.” United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. [link](#)

23. Amnesty researchers note there are “one or two CCTV Cameras for every five meters walked in the old city.” they also find that “Israeli authorities have installed blanket camera surveillance” across the two kilometres separating sheikh jarrah from Damascus gate, one of the busiest urban spaces in the city. ( Automated Apartheid: 7, 11)



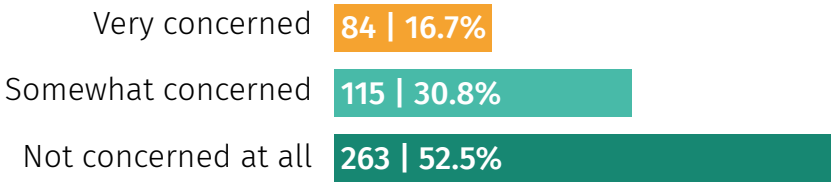
In interviews, respondents said that the denial of privacy on- and offline has locked Palestinians out of the economic, social, and political spheres. Most of those interviewed by 7amleh have either stayed silent on social media and messaging applications or deleted these platforms entirely. Everyone interviewed said they have missed out on education or income as a result of policing and surveillance in their city since October 7th, 2023. Those who were detained by authorities missed months of work and/or school, others were permanently suspended for online posts or because of pending legal trials.

Human rights organizations have long framed Israeli surveillance and policing as a systemic form of intimidation that is unsuccessful in eradicating crime or violence. According to the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, mass incarceration is “meant to clarify that any attempt, however inconsequential, to resist Israeli repression and apartheid might be met with detention without trial, violence, and even torture.”<sup>24</sup> Amnesty International holds that surveillance in Jerusalem is “part of a coercive environment that routinely makes (Palestinian) lives unbearable and which is aimed at forcing Palestinians to leave areas of strategic importance to Israeli authorities.”<sup>25</sup> In recent months, Itamar Ben Gvir—whose Ministry of National Security oversees Israeli police forces operating in the city—has made similar statements. In February, he justified his Ministry’s efforts to restrict Palestinian freedom of movement and expression by stating, “Jewish Israeli lives are simply worth more than Palestinian lives.”<sup>26</sup>

In interviews with Jerusalemites, 7amleh found that the indiscriminate surveillance tactics deployed by Israeli authorities across Jerusalem has had this effect. “The terror works,” one 35-year-old resident of Silwan reported, “I feel as though there is nothing left for me here, but I have nowhere left to go.”

Survey respondents also reported concern over surveillance. 16.7 % reported feeling very concerned about surveillance in daily life, and 30.8% reported feeling somewhat concerned.

**How concerned are you about surveillance in your daily life in general?**



24. “Welcome to Hell: The Israeli Prison System as a Network of Torture Camps.” 5 August, 2024. *B’Tselem*. [link](#), 11.  
25. Automated Apartheid: How Facial Recognition Fragments, Segregates and Controls Palestinians in the OPT.” 2023. Amnesty International. [link](#), 75.  
26. “Ben Gvir at Scene of Shooting.” 6 February 2024. *The Times of Israel*. [link](#)

## Policy Recommendations

In light of the urgent need to protect digital rights, privacy, and basic civil liberties of Palestinians, 7amleh underscores the importance of holding Israeli authorities accountable for surveillance practices and ensuring that technologies used do not infringe on the fundamental rights of Palestinians. To achieve this, a multi-stakeholder approach involving policy makers, civil society, and private companies is essential. Here are our primary recommendations:

### To Policy Makers and International Duty Bearers

- **Enhance International Oversight:** International bodies, including the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Court, must strengthen their investigations into human rights violations targeting Palestinians, particularly those involving digital surveillance and privacy infringements in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and within Israel's 1948 boundaries.
- **Promote Accountability Mechanisms:** Global leaders and governments should apply diplomatic pressure and adopt policies that ensure accountability for rights abuses, especially regarding Israel's widespread surveillance of Palestinians.
- **Encourage Safeguards for Fundamental Rights:** International duty bearers should urge Israeli authorities to protect the rights of Palestinians under occupation, guaranteeing their privacy, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement.

### To Civil Society

- **Raise Awareness:** Civil society organizations must amplify awareness of digital rights abuses and surveillance practices affecting Palestinians. Collaborative campaigns can educate the public and pressure stakeholders to address these infringements urgently.
- **Engage in Strategic Litigation and Reporting:** Civil society should work together on strategic litigation at the international level and continue documenting abuses, submitting cases to relevant human rights bodies.
- **Support Global Movements Against Surveillance Abuse:** CSOs should strengthen alliances with international human rights organizations, contributing to global movements that call for strict regulation of invasive surveillance practices, particularly in occupied and conflict-affected regions.

## To Private Sector Companies

- **Enforce Ethical Standards and Human Rights Commitments:** Companies supplying surveillance and biometric technology, such as Cellebrite, NSO Group, and Oosto, must ensure that their technologies are not deployed in ways that violate human rights. Companies like Meta, Microsoft, and Google must actively prevent the misuse of their computing infrastructure and AI systems in ways that erode Palestinian rights.
- **Establish Clear Conditions for Technology Use:** Firms providing surveillance and digital infrastructure should set firm boundaries for their technology's use in occupied territories, conditioning or altogether banning its application in contexts known for systemic human rights abuses.
- **Commit to Transparency and Accountability:** Companies must disclose the use and oversight of their technologies in the region. We encourage these firms to adopt transparent reporting practices to hold themselves accountable to human rights standards.



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