1. Many Palestinians across the occupied West Bank, particularly in Area C, East Jerusalem, and the settlement area of Hebron city (H2), are at risk of forcible transfer. Certain Israeli policies and practices applied in these areas create a coercive environment, which generates pressure on Palestinians to leave their communities. These include the demolition and threat of demolition of homes, schools and livelihoods; denial of service infrastructure; access restrictions on farming and grazing land; poor law enforcement on violent settlers; the active promotion of ‘relocation’ plans; and revocation of residency rights, among others.

2. The restrictive and discriminatory planning regime applied in Area C and East Jerusalem makes it virtually impossible for Palestinians to obtain the requisite Israeli building permits. Public and confiscated land in those areas has been allocated almost exclusively to Israeli settlements or to the military. Most private land has been zoned as agricultural or ‘green’, or not planned, impeding the issuance of permits in these areas. To meet their housing and livelihood needs, many Palestinians are left with little choice than to build without permits, risking demolition and displacement, or to move elsewhere.

3. Access to large agricultural areas across Area C is prohibited or severely restricted, undermining the livelihoods of Palestinian communities, especially areas between the Barrier and the Green Line, and Palestinian farmland within or next to Israeli settlements, which can be reached only a few days a year. Access to traditional grazing land in areas designated as ‘firing zones’ is prohibited. Cultivation or grazing in areas declared as ‘nature reserves’ is heavily restricted.

4. The Israeli authorities have facilitated the takeover by Israeli settlers of properties in the heart of Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem and Hebron city (H2) and the establishment of settlements there. In many cases this has involved the eviction of families residing in those properties and generated a range of restrictions for those living nearby, including on the use of public space, on residential growth and on freedom of movement.

5. Most Palestinians living in annexed East Jerusalem are considered ‘permanent residents’ of Israel under Israeli law. While this status ensures some social and economic rights, it can be revoked on various grounds, forcing people to leave the city or preventing them from returning. This has been implemented mainly towards Palestinians who failed to prove that Jerusalem is their ‘centre of life’, or who have obtained residency in another country.

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1. *Displacement and relocation to alternative residential areas, as a result of demolition orders, and a coercive environment, could amount to individual and mass forcible transfer and forced evictions, contrary to the obligations of Israel under international humanitarian and human rights law*. Report of the Secretary-General, A/HRC/31/43, 20 January 2016, para. 68.