

# Palestinian Authority Human Rights Abuses

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- The PA continues to assault the basic human rights of the Palestinian-Arabs it claims to represent.
  - The PA neglects women's rights, gay rights, freedoms of expression and religion, and other basic freedoms to which all should be entitled.
  - The Palestinian Authority (PA) is the internationally recognized governing body of the Palestinian-Arabs in Judea and Samaria (also known as the "West Bank").
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## No Women's Rights:

- Honor killings (**the killing of women by relatives for acting "dishonorably"**) in PA-controlled territories doubled in 2013. Laws curtailing these vicious murders are limited and contain exceptions for "extenuating circumstances."<sup>i</sup>
- Palestinian-Arab women in the PA do not receive the same citizenship rights as men. Women may not pass their nationality to their spouses and children.<sup>ii</sup>

## No Freedom of Religion or Expression:

- The PA **suppresses freedom of expression by jailing journalists** who write negatively about PA leaders.<sup>iii</sup>
- **The PA persecutes Palestinian Christians.** This persecution has intensified significantly, resulting in mass migrations of Christians from Bethlehem.<sup>iv</sup>
- The PA jailed a man for six months in 2013 for 'liking' a post on Facebook that depicted PA President Mahmoud Abbas in a negative fashion.<sup>v</sup>

## Persecution of the LGBTQ Community:

- **The PA severely persecutes homosexuals.** Its security forces torture, beat, and interrogate people suspected of being gay.<sup>vi</sup>

## Perpetuating a Cycle of Violence:

- The PA makes **selling land to Jews a crime punishable by death.**
- From June 2007 through December of 2011, PA security forces detained more than 13,000 Palestinian-Arabs. **The PA tortured 96 percent of them, causing the death of six detainees** and causing "chronic illness" in others.<sup>vii</sup>
- The Ramallah-based Independent Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) reported that **the PA's mistreatment and torture of its own citizens** rose 50 percent in 2013.<sup>viii</sup>
- In January 2014, **PA policemen used live ammunition** to disperse Palestinian rock-throwers in the center of Ramallah.<sup>ix</sup>
- In January 2014, the ICHR received repeated complaints about "arbitrary and unlawful arrests of Palestinians by the PA and Hamas."<sup>x</sup>

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- <sup>i</sup> The Algemeiner: *Honor Killings in Palestinian Authority Territory Double in One Year*, February 12, 2014
- <sup>ii</sup> Freedom House: *Palestine* (p5), 2010  
([http://www.freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/inline\\_images/Palestine%20\(Palestinian%20Authority%20and%20Israeli%20Occupied%20Territories\).pdf](http://www.freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/inline_images/Palestine%20(Palestinian%20Authority%20and%20Israeli%20Occupied%20Territories).pdf))
- <sup>iii</sup> Gatestone Institute: *Freedom of Expression? Not for Palestinians*, February 13, 2013
- <sup>iv</sup> The Wall Street Journal: *The Forgotten Palestinian Refugees*, December 28, 2009
- <sup>v</sup> Jerusalem Post: *Palestinian Jailed for 'Liking' Anti-PA Web Post*, March 31st, 2013
- <sup>vi</sup> Times of Israel: *Gay Palestinian to Court: Deport Me and I'll be Killed*, May 25, 2012
- <sup>vii</sup> The Jerusalem Post: *UK-Based Arab HR Group Accuses PA of Abuse*, December 30, 2012
- <sup>viii</sup> Los Angeles Times: *Human Rights Complaints Rise in Palestinian Territories, Group Says*, May 8, 2014
- <sup>ix</sup> Gatestone Institute: *Palestinian Authority Human Rights Violations Ignored by Media, West*, February 11, 2014
- <sup>x</sup> Gatestone Institute: *Palestinian Authority Human Rights Violations Ignored by Media, West*, February 11, 2014