

המרכז לחינוך משפטי קליני
العيادات القانونية - المركز التعليمي



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ASSOCIATION OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS
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POLICE CRIMINAL CASES OPENED AGAINST ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS

2018 - 2020

TRANSLATION OF ORIGINAL HEBREW REPORT

Original Hebrew Report Published 2022

POLICE CRIMINAL CASES OPENED AGAINST ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS

2018 - 2020

ENGLISH INTRODUCTION & OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

3 MINUTE READ

The following introduction is original only to this English version and is based on Josh Breiner's Haaretz article regarding this report's findings and the Israel Police's response:*

This report follows AEJ's previous 2019 report on the high rate of police criminal cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis between 2015-2017.

This current report was published in December 2022 jointly by AEJ, ADVA Center, and the Hebrew U's Clinical Legal Education Center (CLEC), based on police data collected from 2018-2020. Our report shows a positive

trend of decreasing criminal cases opened by Israel's Police against Ethiopian Israelis, while highlighting the continued disturbing statistic that in the three years 2018, 2019 and 2020 the rate of criminal cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis was twice their 1.7% proportion in the population.

Furthermore, the percentage of opened criminal cases during those years for Ethiopian Israeli adults, was 2.8% of all such adult criminal cases, and 5.8% of all such criminal cases for minors. This proportion was 3.4 times greater than the proportion of Ethiopian Israeli minors in the population.

*Haaretz Article

Furthermore, the Israel Police refuses to publish a solid breakdown of sought-after data about its criminal cases (i.e. according to police station location and type of violation) stating, “It could lead to criminal labeling certain citizens” or “harming Ethiopian Israeli feelings”. On the contrary, the police’s lack of public transparency is most certainly hiding its own discriminatory police culture and its over-policing record. This further weakens relations and increases distrust between Ethiopian Israelis and the Israel Police.

The following report is based on police data released to AEJ under the Freedom of Information Act and confirms over-policing, profiling and discrimination against Ethiopian Israelis that is out of proportion to their small 1.7% presence within Israeli society.

POLICE CRIMINAL CASES OPENED AGAINST ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS

2018 - 2020

TRANSLATION OF ORIGINAL HEBREW REPORT*

15 MINUTE READ

This paper presents the facts and the data regarding police criminal cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis. It emphasizes that despite government committees dealing with this issue, and aside from this being an issue the public has been aware of over the past few years, the situation is still disturbing. Unfortunately, it will take considerable time to make a substantial change on the ground and to improve this alarming state of affairs as is revealed in this report.

The July 2016 Palmor Report from the Committee to Eliminate Racism Against Ethiopian Israelis concluded that the discrimination faced by Ethiopian Israelis was both on

an institutional and individual level. The Committee demanded broad action to remedy this situation. This report quotes the police commissioner of that time, Roni Elsheim who admitted at a press conference on June 29, 2016 that: "We understand from studying our history in relation to the Ethiopian Israeli community, that it is possible that there has been over-policing of Ethiopian Israeli youth and of the entire Ethiopian Israeli community." (1)

The Palmor Committee Report showed that there is over-

(1) Palmor Report from the Committee to Eliminate Racism against Ethiopian Israelis- Summary report. July 2016, pg. 28

*Translation of Pages 2 & 3 from the original Hebrew report.

enforcement of charges against Ethiopian Israelis, in particular for “disturbing the peace” during encounters between police neighborhood patrols and community residents, especially against Ethiopian Israeli minors. The report determined that “after studying the cases, there is no explanation of the disparities found at any of the stages of law enforcement.” The report continued by stating “that many of the criminal cases begin on the basis of ‘mundane requests’, such as being asked for ID, demands to spill out alcohol, etc., that quickly deteriorate into actual violence, arrests, and the opening of police criminal cases.” (2)

The AEJ and Hebrew U’s Clinical Legal Education Center (CLEC) have found that in monitoring developments from the field and despite the passage of time, including the increased awareness by decision-makers and other actions that have taken place, there has not been any significant improvement in the situation. And even more serious, there has been no improvement in Israel Police transparency regarding information or procedures.

(2) *Palmer Report from the Committee to Eliminate Racism against Ethiopian Israelis-Summary report. July 2016, pg. 79*

In January 2021, Hebrew U’s Clinical Legal Education Center (CLEC) and the AEJ requested data from the Israel Police under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the statistics of police criminal cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis. In July of 2021 the information was released regarding the opening and closing of criminal cases for both the general population and against Ethiopian Israelis. This included information regarding the type of transgression, the location of the police station doing the investigation, and the reasons the criminal cases were closed. A second request for further clarification was sent in September 2021. In September 2022 (a year later), partial information regarding the opening and closing of police criminal cases for adults and minors was received.

This document presents information compiled by the ADVA Center for 2018-2020, based on the data that was received from the police by Hebrew U’s Clinical Legal Education Center (CLEC) (Request 118/21 under the Freedom of Information Act).

THE MAIN FINDINGS*:

- Between 2018 and 2020, 3.5% of all the police criminal cases opened, were opened against Ethiopian Israelis. This was DOUBLE their 1.7% proportion in Israel's population.
- The proportion of open criminal cases (cases with a suspect or an accused) opened from 2018 to 2020 for Ethiopian Israeli adults, was 2.8% of all such adult criminal cases, and 5.8% of all such criminal cases for minors. This proportion was 3.4 times greater than the proportion of Ethiopian Israeli minors in the population.
- Between 2018 and 2020, 357,350 criminal cases were opened as "crimes against the peace", of which 14,667 (4.1%) were attributed to Ethiopian Israelis. Forty-six percent of all criminal cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis corresponded with this category, as opposed to 39.4% for the general population.
- The category of "crimes against the peace" attributed to Ethiopian Israelis included:
 1. Aggravated assault of an officer (9.1%)
 2. Fighting and disturbing the peace (7.9%)
 3. Assaulting and interfering with an officer (7.7%)

**Translation of Page 4 from the original Hebrew report.*

ACCORDING TO CITY*

- The proportion of criminal cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis vs their relative proportion in the population in various Israeli cities:
 1. In Beit Shemesh, 9.4% of police criminal cases opened between 2018 and 2020 were opened against Ethiopian Israelis. As they constituted 3.4% of the city population, this was 2.8 times their proportion of the population.
 2. In Rehovot - 2.1 times their proportion of the population, in Ashdod and Petach Tikvah, 1.9 times in Rishon LeZion - 1.8 times, and in Netanya and in Yavneh, 1.6 times their proportion in the population.
 3. In Yavneh, 10% of the police criminal cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis were for assaulting and interfering with an officer, while in the general population only 2.8% of the criminal cases were opened for this. Similarly, there were large gaps at the Moriyah station in Jerusalem where 14.1% of its police criminal cases against Ethiopian Israelis were opened for assaulting an officer, as opposed to just 4% of the cases for the general population.
 4. During the years 2018-2020, at the police station in Yavneh, 39.2% of criminal cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis were for assaulting and interfering with an officer. Similar statistics were found for at the Rehovot police station - 33.1% and at the Netanya police station - 23.9%.

**Translation of Page 5 from the original Hebrew report.*

- The percentage of criminal cases closed without charges is smaller against Ethiopian Israelis than for the general population.
 1. 65.2% of the criminal cases against Ethiopian Israelis were closed without charges as opposed to 77.4% of the criminal cases of the general population.
 2. This difference was also found for closing criminal cases for "assaulting and interfering with an officer". 51.8% of these cases were closed against Ethiopian Israelis as opposed to 54.5% for the general population. Criminal cases opened for "aggravated assaults against an officer" were closed for 35.7% of Ethiopian Israelis as opposed to 46.4% of the general population.
- The percentage of criminal cases of Ethiopian Israelis closed for lack of evidence was higher than the percentage of such criminal cases closed for the general population. Over one third (35.6%) of the criminal cases against Ethiopian Israelis were closed for lack of evidence, as opposed to slightly less than a quarter (23.1%) of the criminal cases closed for the general population.

1→ POLICE CRIMINAL CASES OPENED AGAINST ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS IN COMPARISON TO THE GENERAL ISRAELI POPULATION*

At the end of 2020 there were 159.5 thousand Ethiopian Israelis in Israel, 88.5 thousand men and women born in Ethiopia and 71 thousand Israeli children born to an Ethiopian Israeli father. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, this is 1.7% of the total population in Israel (3).

Between 2018 and 2020 the Israeli Police Department opened 907,879 cases (4). Of these total cases, 31,911 cases were opened against Ethiopian Israelis, 3.5% of the total number of cases. In other words, the proportion of cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis was twice their proportion in the population. Despite this, we can draw encouragement from the fact that the percentage of cases

opened during this period against Ethiopian Israelis decreased by 14.1%: from 11.5 thousand cases to 9,882, in comparison to a decrease of 10.6% in the percentage of cases that were opened for the general population which fell from 320.4 thousand to 286.3 thousand cases.

Table 1 presents the number of open police criminal cases between 2018-2020 for the general population and against Ethiopian Israelis, including differentiating between minors and adults. Open cases include those where there is a suspect or a person against whom a complaint has been filed (a person who is suspected of committing a crime).

(3) Central Bureau of Statistics (November 1, 2021) Ethiopian Israeli population - Data compilation in commemoration of the 2021 Sigd Holiday. Press Release.

(4) Note that the figure for total number of cases opened by the police in the years 2018-2020 that appears here is slightly different from the corresponding figure that appears in the statistical 2021 yearbook of the Israel Police in which the total number of cases opened in these years was 907,350 (a gap of 529 cases). Data transferred from the Israel Police from our request for Freedom of Information, gave no explanation for this gap.

*Translation of Page 6 from the original Hebrew report.

This data shows that while the proportion of open cases against Ethiopian Israelis between 2018-2020 was 2.8%, the percentage of open cases for Ethiopian Israeli minors was 5.8% - which was 3.4 times higher than their percentage of the population of those aged 0-19 - which is 1.7% of this age group (5).

The data in Table 1* shows that the drop in the percentage of cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis between 2018-2020 was mainly among minors. The percentage of cases dropped from 6.2% in 2018 to 5.2% in 2020 for this age group. The percentage for Ethiopian Israeli adults barely changed over this period.

TABLE 1. Criminal Cases Opened by the Israel Police for Ethiopian Israeli Adults and Minors & General Population, 2018-2020

(In the parentheses are the percentages of cases against Ethiopian Israelis in relation to the total population.)

סה"כ 2020-2018		2020		2019		2018		שנת פתיחת התיק
יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל האוכלוסייה	יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל האוכלוסייה	יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל האוכלוסייה	יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל האוכלוסייה	
12,999 (2.8%)	457,033	4,222 (2.8%)	149,153	4,203 (2.9%)	147,434	4,574 (2.9%)	160,446	בגירים
3,738 (5.8%)	64,923	1,018 (5.2%)	19,531	1,263 (5.8%)	21,812	1,457 (6.2%)	23,580	קטינים
16,713 (3.2%)	519,917	5,238 (3.1%)	168,000	5,458 (3.2%)	168,559	6,017 (3.3%)	183,358	סה"כ תיקים

הערה: סה"כ התיקים נמוך מסכום התיקים לבגירים ולקטינים, כיוון שקיימים מקרים שבתיק מסוים מעורבים גם בגיר וגם קטין.

מקור: עיבוד של מרכז אדוה לנתוני משטרת ישראל, ספטמבר 2022

(5) The proportion of the minor population among Ethiopian Israelis is calculated according to the number of Ethiopian Israelis aged 0-19 as a share of the total population of Israel at these ages. This calculation shows that between the ages of 0-19, similar to the general population, the proportion of Ethiopian Israeli minors is 1.7%. Source for data on the population of Ethiopian Israelis aged 0-19: CBS-Central Bureau of Statistics (1.11.21) Ethiopian Israeli population - Data compilation in commemoration of the 2021 Sigd Holiday. The source for the data for the entire population at these ages: CBS, the population of Israel at the end of 2020. (21.7.2021)

*Translation of Page 7 from the original Hebrew report.

2→ CASES OPENED AGAINST ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS ACCORDING TO POLICE STATIONS*

The data received from the Israeli police in July 2021 through the Freedom of Information Act shows the distribution of opened cases for the entire population including those opened against Ethiopian Israelis. The report also shows the number of cases opened at the different police stations for the general population and against Ethiopian Israelis. One should note that this indicates where the crime was committed and not where the person lived.

Table 2 presents the 13 police stations with the highest percentages of cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis as well as the number of cases opened for the general population at these stations between 2018 and 2020.

The highest percentages of cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis were in Kiryat Malachi, Kiryat Gat and Yavneh. Between 2018 and 2020, 10.9% of all the police cases opened in each of these cities were against Ethiopian Israelis. Still, the percentage of cases opened in Kiryat Malachi was smaller than the proportion of Ethiopian Israelis living there (15.8 % of the population in 2020). In Kiryat Gat, the percentage of cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis was similar to their proportion living there.

Nonetheless, in many police stations, the proportion of cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis was significantly higher than their proportion of the population in those

**Translation of Page 8 from the original Hebrew report.*

cities. The highest proportion of cases against Ethiopian Israelis was found in Beit Shemesh. There, 9.4% of the cases were opened against Ethiopian Israelis, which was 2.8 times their proportion in the population. Other localities where the proportion of cases opened was greater than the proportion of Ethiopian Israelis living in those cities were: Rehovot (x2.1), Rishon Lezion (x1.8), Netanya and Yavneh (x1.6).

TABLE 2. Police Stations with the Largest Proportion of Cases Opened for Ethiopian Israelis From All Cases*

Shown in Relation to the Proportion of Ethiopian Israelis in the City. Years 2018-2020

In absolute numbers and percentages, in descending order of the ratio between the proportion of cases classified as Ethiopian Israeli and their percentage in the city

יחס תיקים ליוצאי אתיופיה בהשוואה לחלקם באוכלוסייה בעיר	חלקם של יוצאי אתיופיה בעיר	שיעור התיקים שנפתחו ליוצאי אתיופיה	מזה: תיקים שנפתחו ליוצאי אתיופיה	כלל התיקים שנפתחו בתחנה	תחנה
2.8	3.4%	9.4%	618	6,605	בית שמש
2.1	5.2%	10.9%	1,651	15,098	רחובות
1.9	3.3%	6.4%	1,365	21,478	אשדוד
1.9	3.4%	6.3%	1,390	22,216	פתח תקווה
1.8	3.6%	6.4%	1,365	21,262	ראשון לציון
1.6	5.5%	9.0%	1,984	22,017	נתניה
1.6	7.0%	10.9%	819	7,483	יבנה
1.3	5.2%	7.0%	741	10,521	לוד
1.3	5.4%	6.9%	1,217	17,646	אשקלון
1.2	5.6%	6.6%	790	12,059	רמלה
1.1	6.1%	6.7%	1,321	19,703	חדרה
1.0	10.7%	10.9%	1,074	9,862	קרית גת
0.7	15.8%	10.9%	1,016	9,326	קרית מלאכי

Sources: ADVA Center analysis of Israel Police data, November 2021. Data for the proportion of Ethiopian Israelis according to city for the 2020 year.

From: CBS, population of Ethiopian Israelis in Israel - Data compilation in commemoration of the 2021 Sigd Holiday.

3→ CASES OPENED AGAINST ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS ACCORDING TO THE CATEGORY OF THE CRIME*

The Israeli police categorize the various types of crimes as follows: Disturbing the peace, causing bodily harm, property damage, moral violations, security violations, sexual misdemeanors, crimes against persons, and other violations. The category of crimes with the highest number of open cases (cases where there was a suspect or an accused) was for 'disturbing the peace' (6).

This document will focus on the cases opened for disturbing the peace. This is in keeping with the conclusions of the Palmor Report which focused on the initial confrontation between a police officer and an Ethiopian Israeli youth which resulted in the opening of a

criminal case. Disturbing the peace includes preventing an official from performing his duties, assaulting a police officer, brawling and creating a disturbance in the street or institutions, intimidating or bribing others, congregating, causing noise, blocking thoroughfares, trespassing and other violations according to the Law of Entry into Israel (7).

According to the data provided by the Israel Police, between 2018 and 2020, the police opened 357,350 cases for "disturbing the peace", of which 14,667 were opened against Ethiopian Israelis. This was 4.1% of all these cases, which was 2.4 times their proportion in the population.

(6) Israel Police, 2021 Annual Statistical Yearbook, published August 2022. Counting all cases (and not just open cases), in some years the most common group of offenses was 'offenses against property.'

(7) Ibid.

*Translation of Page 10 from the original Hebrew report.

Under the category of “disturbing the peace” the most common violations were aggravated assault of a police officer (9.1%), fights and disturbances in the street (7.9%) and assaulting and interfering with a police officer (7.7%).

Table 3 presents the number of cases opened for “disturbing the peace” between the years 2018-2020. It presents the cases opened against the general population, against Ethiopian Israelis, and the ten categories of violations most frequently filed against Ethiopian Israelis (8).

TABLE 3. The Proportion of Cases Opened for Ethiopian Israelis Within All Cases*

Ten most common types of offenses within the groups for "crimes against disturbing the peace" in total for the years 2018-2020.

In absolute numbers and percentages, in descending order of the number of cases against Ethiopian Israelis.

שיעור התיקים ליוצאי אתיופיה	תיקים ליוצאי אתיופיה	כלל התיקים	סיווג של העבירה
9.1%	182	2,006	תקיפת שוטר בנסיבות חמורות
7.9%	711	9,028	קטטות והפרעה ברחובות
7.7%	2,394	31,100	תקיפת שוטר והכשלת שוטר
6.8%	3,837	56,595	עבירות הנוגעות לנחלת משפט ⁹
6.7%	99	1,473	התקהלות או התאגדות
4.5%	7,197	161,460	איומים
4.1%	185	4,542	מטרד, רעש וחסימת דרך
4.0%	2,626	65,708	עבירות נגד הסדר הציבורי
3.2%	243	7,530	פגיעה בפרטיות
2.9%	732	25,114	הסגות גבול

מקור: עיבוד של מרכז אדוה לנתוני משטרת ישראל, נובמבר 2021

(8) Three crimes were excluded from the analysis in which the proportion of cases involving Ethiopian Israelis was high but the absolute number of them was low (less than 20 cumulative cases) over the three years of 2018-2020: Fights and disturbances in institutions (16 cases - 17%), racist statements (1 case - 12.5%) and interference of a public servant (20 cases - 8.2%).

*Translation of Page 11 from the original Hebrew report.

Table 4* focuses on the crime of “assaulting and interfering with a police officer”. It presents the percentage of the cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis between 2018 and 2020, listed by police station. The table lists the ten police stations with the highest number of cases opened for this offense.

According to Israel Police data, the police station with the highest number of cases opened for “assaulting and interfering with a police officer” was in Rehovot. There were 141 cases opened there against Ethiopian Israelis, which constituted 33.1% of all such cases opened. We note that the percentage of Ethiopian Israelis living in Rehovot in 2020 was 5.2% of the population.

Additional police stations with high percentages of cases opened for “assaulting and interfering with an officer” were the stations in Yavneh, 39.2% of the cases, and Netanya,

where 23.9% were opened against Ethiopian Israelis. In 2020, Ethiopian Israelis constituted 7% of the population in the city of Yavneh and in Netanya they were 5.5% of the population (9).

(9) Central Bureau of Statistics-CBS (November 1, 2021) Ethiopian Israeli population - Data compilation in commemoration of the 2021 Sigd Holiday. Press Release.

*Translation of Page 12 from the original Hebrew report.

TABLE 4. Cases Opened for the Crime of "Assaulting a Police Officer and Interfering With a Police Officer"

Against Ethiopian Israelis and the General Population, By Police Station, for the Years 2018-2020

In absolute numbers and percentages, in descending order of percentage of cases opened against Ethiopian Israelis of overall cases opened for "assaulting and interfering with a police officer"

אחוז התיקים ליוצאי אתיופיה מתוך כלל התיקים שנפתחו בגין "תקיפה והכשלת שוטר"	אחוז "תקיפה והכשלת שוטר" מכלל התיקים		תקיפה והכשלת שוטר		כלל התיקים		תחנה
	כלל האוכלוסייה	יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל האוכלוסייה	יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל האוכלוסייה	יוצאי אתיופיה	
39.2%	2.8%	10.0%	209	82	7,483	819	יבנה
33.1%	2.8%	8.5%	426	141	15,098	1,651	רחובות
23.9%	2.6%	7.0%	582	139	22,017	1,984	נתניה
15.2%	3.6%	7.9%	632	96	17,646	1,217	אשקלון
14.6%	2.8%	6.4%	596	87	21,262	1,365	ראשון לציון
14.1%	3.1%	6.4%	603	85	19,703	1,321	חדרה
12.3%	2.8%	6.5%	1,072	132	37,767	2,024	באר שבע
12.2%	2.4%	5.4%	682	83	27,885	1,538	זבולון ¹
11.5%	4.0%	7.2%	855	98	21,478	1,365	אשדוד
11.5%	4.0%	14.1%	768	88	19,431	624	מוריה ²

הערות: (1) תחנת זבולון משרתת את יישובי הקריות, טבעון, נשר והסביבה. **(2)** תחנת מוריה נמצאת בעיר ירושלים ומשרתת את השכונות: בקעה, קטמון, מלחה, גילה, קרית יובל, קרית מנחם, בית וגן, הר נוף, גבעת שאול, קרית משה, בית צפפא, בית הכרם. **מקור:** עיבוד של מרכז אדוה לנתוני משטרת ישראל, נובמבר 2021

Take note* that we were unable to differentiate between the number of cases opened for adults and for minors because the police refused to provide this information. In September of 2022, the police responded to our request for additional information. They wrote that “any breakdown of crimes by Ethiopian Israelis according to police stations by type of offenses, might lead to labeling the Ethiopian Israeli population as criminal and harm the safety and wellbeing of the general public as a result of the reaction of the relevant population at being labeled” (10).

This response was odd, as the original police reply did show the breakdown according to the different police stations, as presented above. Furthermore, it is unfortunate that the police responded by undermining a democratic principle. The police claimed that releasing the information would “hurt the feelings” of Ethiopian Israelis, and then went on to contend that there is a danger that the release of this

information would lead the youth of this group to “harm the safety and welfare of the general public”. This reasoning reflects the negative bias of the Israeli police towards the Ethiopian Israeli community. Moreover, refusing to release information because of a negative reaction by the public, conflicts with the basic principles of freedom of information and transparency, as well as the freedom to criticize the government authorities.

(10) Israel Police, September 4, 2022 Additional reply to a Freedom of Information request 118/21: Crime data among the general population and Ethiopian Israelis. Reference: 82717322

*Translation of Page 14 from the original Hebrew report.

4→ CLOSING POLICE CRIMINAL CASES OF ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS AS COMPARED TO THE GENERAL POPULATION*

The percentage of cases closed for Ethiopian Israelis was lower than that of cases closed for the general population. Between 2018 and 2020, the police closed 77.4% of all the cases that were opened. In contrast, a significantly lower percentage of cases (65.2%) were closed for Ethiopian Israelis.

This gap can also be seen in the statistics for closing cases for “assaulting and interfering with an officer” and “aggravated assault of an officer”. There were 54.5% cases closed for “assaulting and interfering with an officer” for the general population, as opposed to 51.8% of the cases of Ethiopian Israelis for this offense. The gap was even larger with regard to closing cases for “aggravated assault of a police officer”. In the general population, between 2018 and 2020, 46.4% of these cases were closed, as opposed to 35.7% of these cases for Ethiopian Israelis.

TABLE 5. Overall Cases Closed by Israel Police and Those Cases Closed for Ethiopian Israelis

Years 2018-2020, in Absolute Numbers and Percentages

סה"כ 2020-2018		2020		2019		2018		שנת פתיחת תיק
יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל התיקים	יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל התיקים	יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל התיקים	יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל התיקים	
31,911	907,879	9,882	286,803	10,466	300,616	11,563	320,460	תיקים שנפתחו
20,809	702,330	5,683	200,628	6,907	235,083	8,219	266,619	תיקים שנסגרו
65.2%	77.4%	57.5%	70.0%	66.0%	78.2%	71.1%	83.2%	שיעור התיקים שנסגרו

*Translation of Page 15 from the original Hebrew report.

הערות: (1) סך התיקים שנפתחו המופיעים בלוח זה גבוה מזה המופיע בלוח 1, כיוון שהוא כולל גם תיקים לא גלויים, כלומר כאלו שאין בהם חשוד או נילון. (2) סיווג התיקים שנסגרו לפי שנת פתיחת התיק. מקור: עיבוד של מרכז אדוה לנתוני משטרת ישראל, נובמבר 2021

TABLE 6. Cases Closed by the Israel Police for the Crimes of "Assaulting a Police Officer and Interfering with a Police Officer" and "Aggravated Assault of a Police Officer"*

For the Entire Population and for Ethiopian Israelis Total for the Years 2018-2020, in Absolute Numbers and Percentages

תקיפת שוטר בנסיבות חמורות		תקיפת שוטר והכשלת שוטר		
יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל התיקים	יוצאי אתיופיה	כלל התיקים	
182	2,006	2,394	31,100	תיקים שנפתחו
65	930	1,241	16,964	תיקים שנסגרו
35.7%	46.4%	51.8%	54.5%	שיעור התיקים שנסגרו

הערה: סיווג התיקים שנסגרו לפי שנת פתיחת התיק. מקור: עיבוד של מרכז אדוה לנתוני משטרת ישראל, נובמבר 2021

The Reasons for Closing Cases

Between 2018 and 2020 there were also differences in the reasons given for closing the cases in the general population as opposed to those for Ethiopian Israelis. Chart 1 summarizes the three most common reasons for closing cases and also compares them between the general population and Ethiopian Israelis (11).

The findings show that the most common reason for closing the cases for Ethiopian Israelis is lack of evidence. Over one-third (35.6%) were closed for Ethiopian Israelis as opposed to just under a quarter (23.1%) of the cases in the general population. By contrast, the most common reason for closing cases for the general population is "unknown offender" (12) - 42.6% as opposed to 25.3% for Ethiopian Israelis.

(11) The three common reasons for closing cases - lack of evidence, unknown perpetrator and "the circumstances are not suitable for investigation/prosecution" were recorded in 97% of the cases for the general population, and 96% among Ethiopian Israelis.

(12) In compliance with the procedure of the Investigations and Intelligence Division of the Israel Police

no. 211.10.003 where a case will be classified as such when it is not known who committed the offense or when there is no more than a casual suspicion regarding the identity of the perpetrator.

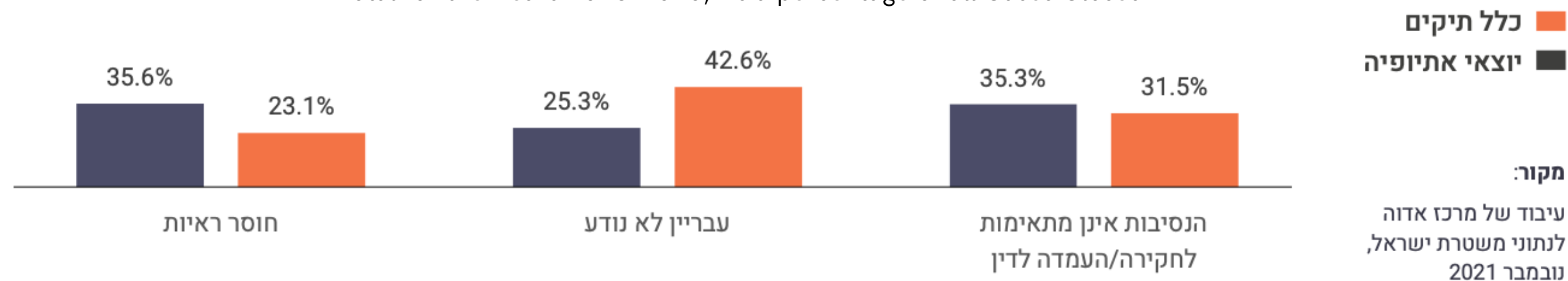
*Translation of Page 16 from the original Hebrew report.

The percentage for closing cases for “circumstances are not applicable for an investigation or standing trial” was similar for both the general population (31.5%) and for the Ethiopian Israeli population (35.3%) (13). We must emphasize that the data provided to us by the Israeli police does not explain how cases are categorized as belonging to Ethiopian Israelis. This is especially for cases closed due to “unknown offender”.*

The 2016 report of the Palmor Committee already stated that the reasons for closing cases against Ethiopian Israelis need to be examined and monitored. This is because of “*the influence that closing a case for the wrong reason can have on the life of the suspect*”. This recommendation was made because the results showed that in many incidents, “cases that had no initial evidence that tied the suspect to the crime” were closed. In these cases, it would have been appropriate to close the cases for “lack of guilt” and should not be listed by police as “suspects”. Despite this, those cases closed for “lack of evidence” still exist in the police records of those involved (14).

CHART 1. Main Reasons for Closing Cases For Ethiopian Israelis & the General Population

Total for the Years 2018-2020, As a percentage of all Cases Closed



(13) In the information provided by the police, the data for 2018 regarding the reasons “the circumstances are not suitable for investigation” and “the circumstances are not suitable for prosecution” were presented together as one category, while in the years 2019-2020 were presented separately. In the data that appears here, these two reasons for the years 2018-2020 were combined into one category.

(14) The Palmor Committee to Eradicate Racism Against Ethiopian Israelis - Summary Report. July 2016, p. 85

*Translation of Page 17 from the original Hebrew report.

SUMMARY*

The findings indicate that the phenomenon of over-policing of Ethiopian Israelis has not been solved. The data shows that there are still significant gaps in law enforcement against Ethiopian Israelis in general, particularly for minors, in different cities, and among specific police stations.

It is time to implement the recommendations of the Palmor Committee Report that was published over five years ago. The Israeli Police must relate to the phenomenon of over-policing of Ethiopian Israelis with the utmost seriousness, and make extensive changes at all levels of command and policing. We have seen that when the State decides to make a change, it can do so successfully. There is no better example than the change made at "Ofek" prison for minors: In 2015, 40% of the minors held there were Ethiopian Israelis, and today they make up only a small percentage of the prison population (15).

We know that change is a process that takes time. However, the data presented in this report necessitate immediate intervention that will result in changing this dismal situation against Ethiopian Israelis.

(15) Amir Alon, *ynet*. February 13, 2019. "This is a School for Delinquency." *The number of imprisoned boys has halved.*

*Translation of Page 18 from the original Hebrew report.

המרכז לחינוך משפטי קליני
العيادات القانونية - المركز التعليمي



AdvaCenter مرکز أدفا
מרכז אדוה
מידע על שוויון וצדק חברתי בישראל



אגודת יהודי
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