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# Human Right and World Heritage in Transverse Context

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## **Abstract**

Human right issues have been an integral dimension of UNESCO's mission and work since its establishment. In the context of the implementation of World Heritage convention, there were few cases where world heritage processes intersect with the right of indigenous people, cultural groups or local communities. One of them is the nomination dossier of Battir to the World heritage list in danger.

Battir is a Palestinian village located on the border which separates the West Bank from Israel since 1948. Its human historic landscape, characterized by dry-stone terraces and ancient irrigation systems dating back to pre-Roman times, yet in use according to traditional agricultural practices, is menaced by the construction of the Separation Barrier, which, if built, will irreversibly damage the site and disrupt the way of living of its inhabitants.

This nomination dossier aims to protect the traditional practices that are still in use by the local community until this day and maintain the agricultural practices that lie at the basis of this living landscape, which embody one of the oldest farming methods known to humankind and constitute an important source of livelihood for the local communities.

This paper will present Battir as a case study where issues of human rights and cultural rights were the main essential factor in deciding whether to list Battir or not.