



Situation Report #23: Occupied Palestine

27 January – 3 February 2025 (until 10:00 AM)

The Government Communication Center at the Prime Minister's Office issues the Situation Report once a week. The next Situation Report will be issued on 10 February 2025.

Key Developments

ISRAEL, THE OCCUPYING POWER, RELEASES 293 PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

Over the past week, the occupation authorities released two batches of Palestinian prisoners under the ceasefire agreement. On Thursday, [110 prisoners](#) were released, including 32 serving life sentences, 48 with long sentences, and 30 children. In the occupied West Bank, 66 arrived in Ramallah, including [Zakariya Zubeidi](#). Additionally, 14 arrived in Jerusalem, 9 in Gaza, and 21 others were deported. On Saturday, [183 prisoners](#) were released, including 18 prisoners serving life sentences and 54 others with long sentences: 39 from Gaza, 32 from West Bank, and one prisoner holding Egyptian citizenship. Seven prisoners were deported. An additional 111 Palestinians from Gaza, who were arrested after 7 October 2023, were also released. The [International Committee of the Red Cross](#) complained to the Israeli prison service that Palestinian prisoners were released with their hands tied behind their heads while wearing bracelets, stating in Arabic: "The eternal nation does not forget. We will pursue our enemies and overcome them."

MORE THAN 423 THOUSAND PALESTINIANS RETURN TO NORTHERN GAZA

The [United Nations](#) announced last Wednesday that more than 423,000 Palestinians have returned to northern Gaza. Through Rashid and Salah al-Din streets, amidst scenes of hope and defiance, [the return of displaced Palestinians to northern Gaza](#) began last Monday, 27 January, following the IOF's withdrawal from the Martyrs Junction, known as the "Netzarim" axis. The returnees confront a tragic reality due to the complete destruction of infrastructure and a severe lack of basic services, which forces them to live in temporary tents under exceptionally harsh humanitarian conditions. The [Civil Defense in Gaza](#) said that displaced people returning to northern Gaza found no shelter, fuel, or water, emphasizing that the occupation authorities are delaying the delivery of relief aid.

39 MARTYRS IN JENIN, TULKAREM, & TUBAS SINCE 21 JANUARY 2025

For the past week, the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) have continued their aggression against the West Bank, particularly in Jenin, Tulkarem, and Tubas, [stressing that their aggression will extend to other refugee camps](#). Since 21 January 2025, the IOF has continuously targeted the Jenin refugee camp, demolishing at least [60 buildings](#) and



forcing out numerous Palestinian families. Over the past 14 days in Jenin, the IOF has killed [25 Palestinians](#), including three children ([Ahmad al-Saadi](#), [Laila al-Khatib](#), and [Muataz Abu Tbeikh](#)), and injured many others. In Tulkarem, Israeli bulldozers [destroyed the city's infrastructure and damaged public and private property](#). According to [Faisal Salama](#), head of Tulkarem's Popular Committee for Services, thousands of citizens were forced to leave at gunpoint. Since 27 January 2025, the IOF has killed [four Palestinians](#) in Tulkarem and injured many others. On 29 January in Tubas, a drone fired a missile into the yard of a house in the town of Tamoun, killing [ten Palestinians](#) and leaving four others seriously injured.

ISRAEL CLOSES UNRWA OFFICES IN OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

On Thursday, two Israeli Knesset laws targeting the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in occupied Palestine entered into force. The Israeli decision includes [closing the agency's headquarters in occupied Jerusalem and halting its activities](#). This denies over 110,000 Palestinian refugees in occupied Jerusalem access to education and health services and poses a threat to millions more in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The official spokesman for the Palestinian presidency, [Nabil Abu Rudeineh](#), said that the United Nations must fulfill its responsibilities under international law and compel the occupying state to reverse this rejected decision.

THE FORMATION OF "THE HAGUE GROUP" TO END ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION

On 31 January, nine countries from the Global South announced the formation of The Hague Group, which aims to uphold International Court of Justice rulings, hold Israel accountable, including by supporting the International Criminal Court's arrest warrants against Israeli leaders, and prevent the transfer of weapons to Israel. The group comprises nine founding members: Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Malaysia, Namibia, Senegal, and South Africa. They have invited additional countries to join, including Spain. The Group's [inaugural statement](#) calls for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and affirms the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

AN ISRAELI SPYWARE TARGETS JOURNALISTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS

WhatsApp revealed that the Israeli company [Paragon Solutions](#), founded by former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, targeted nearly 100 journalists and civil society members. The company expressed "high confidence" in these claims and expressed concerns about users' security amid ongoing spyware threats. The spyware known as "Graphite" is similar to NSO Group's "Pegasus," providing full access to compromised devices, including encrypted messaging apps such as WhatsApp and Signal.



Summary

Since the onset of Israel's genocidal aggression on Gaza, the IOF has killed **47,487** Palestinians and wounded **111,588** more.¹ Thousands are still trapped under the rubble. The [UN Mine Action Service \(UNMAS\)](#) warns that 5 to 10 percent of weapons fired into Gaza failed to detonate, leaving deadly dangers behind. Luke Irving, UNMAS Chief in occupied Palestine, said: "Humanitarian convoys are finding items more and more, as we reach new areas which we previously could not get to, including large aircraft bombs, mortars, anti-tank weapons, rockets and rifle grenades."



Figure 1: Gaza Strip

In the occupied West Bank, incl. Jerusalem, since 7 October 2023, the IOF has killed **900** Palestinians, incl. **174** children, and injured more than **6,700** others⁴. Since the beginning of 2025, the IOF has killed **70** Palestinians in the occupied West Bank⁵. At dawn on Sunday, [Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque in the Arab al-Malihah community northwest of Jericho](#), completely burning it down. Aimed at displacing Palestinians and seizing their homes and properties, the attack is part of the ongoing expansion of Israeli colonial installations (outposts) at the end of Al-Mu'arrajat Road.



Figure 2: West Bank⁶ | 27 January – 2 February 2025 (until 8 AM)

¹ [PCBS](#) - Last updated on 1 February 2025 at 21:00

² UNOCHA, [Reported Impact Snapshot| Gaza Strip](#), 28 January 2025.

³ Ibid

⁴ [PCBS](#) - Last updated on 1 February 2025 at 21:00

⁵ [Wafa](#)

⁶ [NAD's Palestinian Monitoring Group](#) | The same incident may result in multiple attacks.



In Focus

NORTHERN WEST BANK UNDER FIRE: SITUATION AMIDST ONGOING ISRAELI AGGRESSION

- **Jenin⁷:** Yesterday, the [IOF simultaneously detonated around 20 buildings in the eastern section of the Jenin refugee camp](#) after booby-trapping them. It was reported that loud explosions echoed throughout Jenin City and the surrounding towns in the governorate. Wissam Bakr, the director of Jenin Governmental Hospital, reported that this explosion damaged some departments, but no injuries were recorded. So far, 15,000 Palestinians have been forced out of the Jenin refugee camp and the al-Hadaf neighborhood, and they have been distributed to several villages and towns in the governorate. Within the past 14 days, the IOF has caused widespread destruction of property and infrastructure. Early yesterday morning, an Israeli sniper killed Walid al-Lahlouh (73 years old) at the entrance to Jenin refugee camp. The hospitals in Jenin suffer a severe water shortage after the IOF targeted and destroyed the water lines. This left about 35% of the city's residents without adequate water.
- **Tulkarem⁸:** For the past eight days, the IOF's aggression against Tulkarem City and its refugee camp has persisted, imposing a strict siege on both. The IOF also besieged Thabet Thabet Governmental Hospital and the Israa Specialized Hospital, obstructing ambulances and medical crews. The city is experiencing a significant deployment of snipers on the rooftops of residential and commercial buildings they have seized and converted into military barracks. In the Tulkarem refugee camp, the IOF continues to raid and search homes and force their owners to leave at gunpoint. Eyewitnesses reported that the IOF is intensifying the bombing of properties, demolishing more homes and shops, and reducing them to rubble. They also raided dozens of homes, destroying their contents and making holes in their walls to access adjacent properties. More families are being forcibly displaced from their homes, with the IOF threatening them not to return. The aggression has caused the destruction of the infrastructure and the interruption of essential services, including water, electricity, and the internet, accompanied by a shortage of food, medical supplies, drinking water, and baby milk. On Sunday evening, the [IOF deliberately terrorized vegetable stall owners](#) in the center of the Tulkarem market when one of their armored vehicles destroyed several stalls located along the roadside.

⁷ [Wafa](#)

⁸ [Wafa](#)



- **Tubas**⁹: Since 2 February, the IOF has launched its military aggression on the Al-Far'a refugee camp and the town of Tamoun, south of Tubas. Since the first moments of Israel's military assault, the IOF bulldozers have begun to destroy the roads and infrastructure, including a water pipeline between Atouf and Tamoun, and closed several side roads with dirt mounds. Local sources said that the IOF raided several homes in the two areas, forced residents to leave, and turned them into military barracks. Medical sources indicated that the IOF blocked the Palestinian Red Crescent teams from reaching a patient in Al-Far'a to transfer him to a hospital in Tubas. The director of the Prisoners Club in Tubas, Kamal Bani Odeh, reported that the IOF arrested nine citizens from Tubas, Tamoun, and Al-Far'a. The Israeli military continues to send reinforcements while aerial surveillance operates at intermediate altitudes over the governorate.

[President Mahmoud Abbas](#) called for an urgent emergency session at the United Nations Security Council to stop the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

Government Update

[Prime Minister Dr. Mohammad Mustafa](#) met on Thursday in his office in Ramallah with ambassadors, consuls, heads of diplomatic missions, and representatives from international organizations operating in Palestine. He was joined by Wael Zaqout, the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation; Samah Hamad, the Minister of Social Development and Relief; and Varsen Aghabekian Shaheen, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. The Prime Minister outlined the Government's ongoing efforts in the Gaza Strip through the Government Operations Room for Emergency Interventions and its field teams to implement the Relief, Early Recovery, and Emergency Response Plan for the next six months. The Prime Minister further announced that a detailed report on Gaza's damages and losses will soon be released. On Israel's ongoing aggression against the West Bank, PM Mustafa stressed: "What is happening in the West Bank is a systematic effort to undermine the embodiment of the Palestinian state. We are witnessing military incursions into the northern West Bank governorates, accompanied by killing, detention, infrastructure destruction, and demolition of homes and structures. This demands urgent international action to end this." The Prime Minister also emphasized that Israel's ban on UNRWA operations will have grave consequences, particularly in providing services to refugees in Gaza and the West Bank. He called for immediate international intervention to halt the targeting of UNRWA and Israel's relentless attempts to liquidate the refugee issue and eliminate the right of return.

⁹ [Wafa](#)