



Situation Report #26: Occupied Palestine

17 February– 24 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 3 March 2025.

Key Developments

ISRAEL POSTPONES RELEASE OF THE 7TH. BATCH OF PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

The Palestinian Prisoners' Society and the Commission of Detainees' Affairs confirmed late Saturday night that the Israeli occupation authorities had postponed the release of the [seventh batch of Palestinian prisoners](#) until further notice. Their release was scheduled for Saturday as part of the ceasefire agreement. The seventh batch includes 402 prisoners, comprising 50 serving life sentences, 60 with lengthy sentences, and 47 who were re-arrested after being released under the "Shalit" deal, along with 445 detainees from the Gaza Strip who were arrested after 7 October 2023.

ISRAEL ADVANCES NEARLY 1,000 SETTLEMENT UNITS SOUTH OF BETHLEHEM

Following the approval of the construction plan in 2024, the Israeli occupation authorities have issued a tender for the construction of 974 new settlement units in the "Efrat" settlement, located south of Bethlehem. This project will expand the settlement by 644 dunams and increase its population by approximately 40%. According to [Peace Now](#): "Efrat settlement blocks the development of the Bethlehem metropolis to the south, and if Israel seeks to annex it to Israel, it will cut off the entire southern West Bank, which depends on the connection to the northern Bank through Bethlehem (...)."

LATEST UPDATE ON THE HEALTH SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP

Shortages of medical equipment, ICU beds, and oxygen supplies are further worsening the [health situation in Gaza](#) and presenting significant challenges to thousands of patients. Only five oxygen stations serve all functioning hospitals in Gaza, placing patients in intensive care units at serious risk. About 350,000 chronically ill patients lack access to essential medications and therapies. There are only 102 hemodialysis machines available, leaving patients in dire circumstances and with limited treatment options. Thousands require medical evacuation, including children with cancer, but [Israel is deliberately hindering the evacuation of patients needing treatment abroad](#). Many patients are unable to receive care because of devastated healthcare facilities and depleted resources.



ISRAEL WITHHOLDS \$90 MILLION FROM PALESTINIAN CLEARANCE FUNDS

According to [Israeli media](#), Israel decided last Monday to withhold \$90 million in Palestinian clearance funds. The decision, made by Smotrich, aims to transfer the funds to Israeli families who allege their relatives were killed in "attacks" carried out by Palestinians. Dr. [Mohammad Abu Al-Rub](#), the director of the Government Communication Center, stated that the occupation's government did not transfer clearing funds last month, noting that the government had to borrow from banks to secure employees' salaries. So far, Israel has pirated and withheld approximately 7 billion shekels (1.96 billion USD), he noted.

ISRAELI LEAFLET: "TRUMP'S MANDATORY PLAN WILL IMPOSE FORCED DISPLACEMENT UPON YOU"

Israel dropped leaflets over the Gaza Strip, threatening to forcibly displace the Palestinian population as part of what it called "Trump's mandatory plan." The [leaflet](#) warned Palestinians in Gaza not to reject the plan. It said Gaza is of no importance to the US or Europe, adding that "The world map will not change if all the people of Gaza cease to exist. No one will feel for you, and no one will ask about you. You have been left alone to face your inevitable fate."

ISRAEL CONTINUED AGGRESSION AGAINST JENIN AND TULKAREM

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) continue their aggression in [Jenin](#) City and its refugee camp for the 35th consecutive day. So far, this has resulted in 27 martyrs, dozens of injuries, and arrests amid widespread destruction of property and infrastructure. According to local sources, the occupation has completely demolished approximately 120 homes and partially demolished dozens of other houses and properties. Moreover, the IOF's aggression continues in the city of [Tulkarem](#) and its refugee camp for the 29th consecutive day, as well as in the Nour Shams refugee camp for the 16th day, inflicting widespread destruction. The [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates](#) condemned the storming of Tulkarem refugee camp by Netanyahu and Katz, noting that so far, the occupation has forcibly displaced more than 40,000 Palestinians in the northern West Bank.

ISRAEL ORDERS THE IMMEDIATE EVACUATION OF UNRWA SCHOOLS

The UNRWA Commissioner-General, [Philippe Lazzarini](#), said that the Israeli police's forceful entry of UNRWA schools in East Jerusalem and Qalandia last Tuesday and its order to close them constitutes "a violation of the basic right to education as well as of United Nations privileges and immunities." Lazzarini explained that the incidents deprived 250 children in three schools in East Jerusalem and more than 350 trainees at the Qalandia Training Center of their education.



Summary

Since the onset of Israel's genocidal aggression on Gaza, the IOF has killed **48,329** Palestinians and wounded **111,753** more.¹ Approximately [675 bodies](#) have been recovered until 18 February since the ceasefire came into effect on 19 January. Moreover, it remains extremely difficult to acquire [fuel derivatives](#) despite the ceasefire agreement. The cost of a liter of diesel has soared to over 50 shekels, more than ten times its price before Israel's genocidal aggression on Gaza, resulting in public transportation fares climbing to five times what they were before 7 October 2023.



Figure 1: Gaza Strip

In the occupied West Bank, incl. Jerusalem, since 7 October 2023, the IOF has killed **923** Palestinians, incl. **180** children, and injured at least **6,700** others⁴. Minister Mu'ayyad Sha'ban, head of the Colonization & Wall Resistance Commission, stated that the occupation government had seized more than 72% of the lands classified as "C" under the Oslo Interim Agreement. For the benefit of Israeli pastoral colonial installations (outposts), Shaaban noted that the occupation government had appropriated over 16,000 dunams in various areas east of Ramallah. Additionally, they have taken control of archaeological sites southwest of Bethlehem, transferring their affiliation to the occupation authorities.



Figure 2: West Bank⁵ | 17 February – 23 February 2025 (until 8 AM)

¹ [PCBS](#) - Last updated on 22 February 2025 at 21:00

² UNOCHA, [Reported Impact Snapshot| Gaza Strip](#), 18 February 2025.

³ Ibid

⁴ [PCBS](#) - Last updated on 22 February 2025 at 21:00

⁵ [NAD's Palestinian Monitoring Group](#) | The same incident may result in multiple attacks.



In Focus

Last Wednesday, the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem warned about Israel's intention to confiscate its centuries-old properties in the city. Israel, the occupying Power, claims that the Patriarchate's municipal tax debts have accumulated since 1994. Israel's Jerusalem municipality requires it to pay taxes, warning that failure to do so will result in the sale of its properties at auction. The Armenian Patriarchate has filed a petition scheduled for today, Monday, 24 February 2025, to halt the "foreclosure process" on its owned real estate properties. It said in an "[Urgent Communiqué](#)" that "If, God forbidding, the Patriarchate's petition is denied, the Jerusalem Municipality will seize real estate properties belonging to the Patriarchate and put them up for auction in order to collect allegedly disputed debts that have never been proven in judicial proceedings, and through customary practices heretofore, have never been enforced." The Patriarchate said this attempt "could jeopardize the Armenian Patriarchate's long-standing mission in the Holy Land, which has been active since the 7th century," adding that "it could threaten the continued presence of the Armenian community in the Holy Land, which dates back to the 4th century."

Government Updates

- Dr. Samah Hamad, Minister of Social Development and Relief and head of the Government Operations Room, chaired the meeting of the [Government Operations Room For Emergency Interventions in the Southern Governorates](#) (Gaza Strip) to oversee the daily activities of field teams. She stressed the significance of the "Urgent Appeal" group's outcomes, which resulted in providing relief aid to several residents of the Gaza Strip, including over 980 tents supplied out of 1,400 urgent requests submitted to the operations room for tents. Hamad indicated that the operation of several schools will be announced next week as a step aimed at restoring the educational process. Coordination is also underway to bring solar panels to support high school exams. Dr. Hamad urged for increased international pressure to open the crossings and deliver the necessary equipment to remove rubble in the Gaza Strip.
- [The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates](#) warned in a statement yesterday of Israel's deployment of heavy tanks around Jenin, "viewing it as a prelude to expanding its crimes against the Palestinian people—particularly in the northern West Bank and its refugee camps." The Ministry added, "This escalation comes as Israeli 'Defense' Minister Israel Katz boasts that the Israeli occupation army will prevent displaced Palestinians from returning to their homes and has ordered an extended military presence in the area."