

# CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development - REFORM



[https://scontent.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t39.30808-6/791042784\\_7851016751639363\\_8388706939866346887\\_n.jpg?nc\\_cat=100&ccb=1-7&nc\\_sid=8fefe0&nc\\_ohc=ZiRye3VcTKAX80eui9&nc\\_hjscontent=xx&oh=00\\_AT91RV8IawKNqFV7ZORVnT6\\_d\\_kw/P56X4-5XecW7Ce8oe=52CBF242](https://scontent.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t39.30808-6/791042784_7851016751639363_8388706939866346887_n.jpg?nc_cat=100&ccb=1-7&nc_sid=8fefe0&nc_ohc=ZiRye3VcTKAX80eui9&nc_hjscontent=xx&oh=00_AT91RV8IawKNqFV7ZORVnT6_d_kw/P56X4-5XecW7Ce8oe=52CBF242)



As the highly contagious Coronavirus, COVID-19, is affecting **228 countries and territories** around the world, Palestine attempts to contain a local outbreak that has effectively halted daily life and led to tens of thousands of people entering quarantine.<sup>1</sup>

Although **3,078,533** individuals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been tested for COVID-19, there remains a deficiency in the amount of testing kits, as there is an increase in the number of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. **2,009,161** individuals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip took the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and **1,774,238** individuals are completely vaccinated.<sup>2</sup>

## Global Level<sup>3</sup>

# of COVID-19 Cases

# of Recoveries

# of Deaths

# of Active Cases

557,797,618

531,656,544

6,367,375

19,773,699

<sup>1</sup><https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.corona.ps>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

Local Level <sup>4</sup>				
Location	# of COVID-19 Cases	# of Recoveries	# of Deaths	# of Currently Infected Patients
West Bank (including Jerusalem)	412,862 <i>Including 76,530 in Jerusalem</i>	406,497 (75,286)	3,683 (304)	2,682 (940)
Gaza Strip	249,726	247,709	1,979	38
Total	662,588	654,206	5,662	2,720

Based on population estimates prepared by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, there are about 14.3 million Palestinians in the world in mid-2022, of whom about 5.35 million in the State of Palestine; 2.72 million males and 2.63 million females. The estimated population of the West Bank was 3.19 million (1.62 million males and 1.57 million females). While the estimated population of Gaza Strip was 2.17 million in the same year (1.10 million males and 1.07 million females). [Sources: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics' Website, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

During a bilateral meeting between the Palestinian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, many health programs and specializations in the Ministry were discussed at the technical, infrastructure and staff levels. The meeting discussed various health aspects, especially those related to the health of the elderly and adolescents, women's health, reproductive health, gender-based violence, COVID-19 and vaccinations, along with development and strengthening strategies and mechanisms regarding these topics. [Sources: The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website, Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency](#)

Today, the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates condemned the violations and crimes of the occupation, which continue around the clock, against Palestinian citizens, their land, property, homes and sanctities, the latest of which was the demolition of a car wash and the bulldozing of lands in occupied Jerusalem. The Foreign Ministry indicated, in a statement, there continues to be random mass arrests of Palestinian citizens throughout the occupied West Bank, after invasions of their towns, villages and camps in the late hours of the night, intimidating citizens' safety in their homes, including children, the elderly and women. This violates all signed agreements, the Geneva Conventions and the principles of human rights, in an attempt to break the will of Palestinian steadfastness and sowing terror and fear in the consciousness of Palestinians. [Sources: The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates' Website, Raya News Network and Wafa News Agency](#)

**Several attacks and arrests by the Israeli occupying forces took place across Palestine:**



1. Today, dozens of settlers invaded the courtyards Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
2. Today, (2) Palestinian brothers were arrested from the town of Zita, north of Tulkarem. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
3. Today, a group of settlers invaded the Harini family's house in the Birin area of Masafer Yatta, south of Hebron. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
4. Today, the occupying forces issued a notice to halt the of construction of a house, belonging to a Palestinian, in the village of Atouf, south of Tubas. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
5. Today, lands, belonging to Palestinians, were bulldozed east of the central governorate of the Gaza Strip. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
6. Today, a car wash was demolished and land was bulldozed in the village of Nabi Samuel, northwest of occupied Jerusalem. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
7. Today, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society confirmed that the Israel Prison Service has placed the Palestinian prisoner, Rabie Abu Nawas (33 years), from the town of Sinjil, near Ramallah, in solitary confinement for more than two years. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
8. Today, the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs stressed that the lives of the two Palestinian prisoners who are on a hunger strike, Khalil Awawdeh and Raed Rayan, are in danger. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
9. The occupying forces imposed house arrest on the young man, Muhammad Musa Odeh, from the occupied city of Jerusalem, until next Saturday, and obliged him to pay a fine. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

## **Local and International Events**

Arab journalists' unions have called for justice for the Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh after an official US report said her killing by Israeli forces as 'unintentional'. The veteran Al-Jazeera journalist, who held Palestinian and American citizenship, was wearing a vest and helmet marked "Press" when she was killed on May 11. She was covering an Israeli army operation in Jenin camp in the northern West Bank. The US State Department released a report on Monday saying Abu Akleh was likely killed by gunfire from Israeli positions but that there was no reason to believe her death was intentional. The General Union of Arab Journalists on Wednesday said in a statement that the US report lacked accuracy and was politically biased in favour of Israel. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

A WELSH council pension fund has more than £97m invested in companies "complicit" in Israeli human rights abuses against Palestinian people, new research has shown. The figures, uncovered by Rhondda Cynon Taf Palestine Solidarity Campaign (RCT PSC) - some of whom say they are themselves employed by the council - show that the pension scheme has invested a total of £97,825,382 in these firms. The companies include fossil fuel giant Exxon Mobil, which supplies the Israeli military with diesel for its attack helicopters and bomber planes, along with arms company Lockheed Martin and holiday site Booking.com, which has previously listed properties for rent on Israeli settlements illegally established by confiscating land and property from Palestinians. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh met on Tuesday for the first time in six years, reportedly at the request of Algeria's President Abdelmadjid Tebboune. The leaders of Hamas and Fatah Movement were taking part in celebrations in Algeria marking the country's 60<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary. In photos circulated on Algerian and Palestinian media outlets, the two rivals were seen shaking hands under Tebboune's gaze. The two leaders last met face-to-face in Doha, Qatar in 2016. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

The Palestinian Action Group picketed UAV Engines claiming they make drone engines for the Israeli Army. However, Mr Fabricant claimed protesters have got their facts wrong. He said: "The ignorance of the so called Palestine Action group who have once again intimidated local workers at the UAV Engines site at Shenstone is breathtaking. They claim to have 'taken aim' at Elbit's Shenstone factory, because 'UAV Engines Ltd manufacture engines for Israeli drones.' They do not! The Israeli company have their own factories in Israel which manufacture engines for the Israel Air Force and Army." He added: "The Shenstone factory provide equipment for the British Armed Forces for the defence of our islands and for the operation of British forces overseas. The childish actions of the Palestine Action Group endangers the lives of British servicemen and is a nuisance to local people in the area." [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

## **Miscellaneous**

Today, the Israeli Ministry of Health confirmed that total number of COVID-19 cases is **4,415,072**, of which **11,042** died and **4,329,899** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **74,131** active cases in Israel, **310** are in critical condition. Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- ❖ Ben & Jerry's is suing its parent company amid the sale of its Israel business to a local licensee in the Jewish state, effectively circumventing the ice cream maker's boycott of the country.
- ❖ Israel's Prime Minister Yair Lapid does not expect to have any immediate talks with the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, however, he will not "rule it out," he said on Tuesday.
- ❖ "I do not have meetings for the sake of meetings unless they have a positive result for Israel. At the moment it is not on the agenda, but I do not rule it out," Lapid said.
- ❖ An independent international investigation should be opened into the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said Tuesday in a statement expressing concern that failing to bring her justice perpetuates impunity.
- ❖ The Israeli occupation authorities detained 464 Palestinians in June, including 70 minors and 18 women, and 3873 Palestinians since the start of the year, today said Palestinian prisoners' advocacy groups.
- ❖ Israel decided to grant the Palestinians additional permits and facilitations during the upcoming Eid al-Adha holiday. The decision comes as part of other measures expected at the political and security level in Israel ahead of US President Joe Biden's visit to the region, which is scheduled for mid-July. The Israeli Civil Administration announced "the easing of some restrictions imposed on the movement of Palestinians during the upcoming Eid al-Adha holiday, from July 9 to 13."
- ❖ Israeli and US officials took another step toward a long-awaited visa waiver deal between the two countries, signing the final bilateral agreement needed to implement the program.

**Following are links of useful resources for information and updates on COVID-19:**

1. <http://www.corona.ps/details>
2. <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>
3. [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1)
4. <https://www.moh.gov.ps/portal/en/>