

# CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development - REFORM



[https://content.fir25-1.fna.fbdn.net/v/h39\\_30808-6/293974590\\_5826897823986963\\_13409246584021698016\\_n.jpg?nc\\_cat=107&ccb=1-7&nc\\_sid=730e14&nc\\_ohc=cnXUeK8F8ybMAX9ZUAT9&tn=DjHMVn&nIj7dI9d&nc\\_hlscontent.fir25-1.fna&oh=00\\_AT-47N8G056nTf2F0I7F\\_XUB\\_xDwaYnk2v50vrrVs2ABoe=620A3822](https://content.fir25-1.fna.fbdn.net/v/h39_30808-6/293974590_5826897823986963_13409246584021698016_n.jpg?nc_cat=107&ccb=1-7&nc_sid=730e14&nc_ohc=cnXUeK8F8ybMAX9ZUAT9&tn=DjHMVn&nIj7dI9d&nc_hlscontent.fir25-1.fna&oh=00_AT-47N8G056nTf2F0I7F_XUB_xDwaYnk2v50vrrVs2ABoe=620A3822)

*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. **2,009,535** individuals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip took the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and **1,773,298** individuals are completely vaccinated.<sup>2</sup>

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

# of COVID-19 Cases

# of Recoveries

# of Deaths

# of Active Cases

567,894,785

539,032,140

6,387,900

22,474,745

<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)	420,339 <i>Including 79,340 in Jerusalem</i>	412,666 (77,486)	3,685 (304)	4,669 (1,559)
Gaza Strip	251,700	247,797	1,979	1,243
Total	672,039	660,463	5,664	5,912

The Palestinian Minister of Health, Dr. Mai Al-Kela, announced that there were 6,954 new COVID-19 cases between July 10<sup>th</sup> – July 17<sup>th</sup>. Sources: [The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website](#), [Wafa News Agency](#) and [Raya News Network](#)

The Palestinian Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, addressed the crisis of travelers at the Al-Karama Crossing, saying: "We are following up on the crisis that our people are experiencing at the Crossing, and we will work, in agreement with our counterparts in Jordan and the Israeli side, to end it in the near term, by extending working hours and expanding and creating new lanes in the medium term." He continued: "The best thing is to establish lanes for trucks and others for travelers, and not to merge between them. The Jordanians are working with us to develop the crossings from their side, and we are with them in every measure to facilitate the movement of travelers."

On the other hand, the Prime Minister valued the firm Arab position on the issue of Palestine, which was manifested in the Jeddah Summit through the speeches of kings, princes and Arab presidents participating in the Summit, stressing that Palestine and its just cause will remain a key and condition for any peace and stability in the region and in the world. He also thanked the Arab countries for their willingness to contribute to supporting Jerusalem hospitals, namely: the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Sources: [The Council of Ministers' Website](#), [Raya News Network](#), [Ma'an News Agency](#) and [Wafa News Agency](#)

The Coordination Council for the Justice Sector met, in the presence of all its members, to discuss the observations on the decree laws related to judicial procedures, aimed at expediting the settlement of cases before the regular courts. The meeting came from President Mahmoud Abbas. The Council listened extensively to all the remarks made by the President of the Bar, and stressed the continuation of discussion and dialogue between the partners to reach a consensual formula on decree laws in a way that ensures the fulfillment of the requirements of a fair trial. The meeting resulted in recommendations to publish the recent amendments to the decree-law regarding the amendment of the implementation law and its enforcement, suspending the enforcement of the decree-law to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure until September 1, 2022. Sources: [Raya News Network](#), [Ma'an News Agency](#) 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, work on (6) houses, belonging to Palestinians, was brought to a halt in the Masafer Yatta, south of Hebron. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
3. Today, the western neighborhood of Tulkarem was invaded. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
4. Today, fire was open towards agricultural lands, belonging to Palestinians, northeast of Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
5. Today, Shuafat refugee camp, northeast of occupied Jerusalem, was invaded. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
6. Today, (14) Palestinians were arrested across several Governorates in the West Bank, including: Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Bethlehem, Nablus and Hebron. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
7. Today, four roads inside the town linking Hawara with the towns of Einabus, Urif and Jama'in were closed in the Hebron Governorate. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
8. Today, the Palestinian prisoner who has been on a hunger strike for 103 days, Raed Rayan, told the lawyer at the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, Fawaz Al-Shaloudi, after visiting him in the "Ramle Prison" clinic, the details of his health conditions, noting that he suffers from blurred vision and severe headaches. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)



## **Local and International Events**

The Palestinian Authority leadership has expressed satisfaction with Saturday's Jeddah summit, which was attended by leaders of all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, as well as Egypt, Jordan and Iraq and US President Joe Biden. PA officials said that they were especially delighted to see the Arab leaders reaffirm their support for the Palestinian people and the two-state solution, thus refuting speculation that the Arab countries have turned their backs on the Palestinians. Reports that Saudi Arabia was not considering (at least at this stage) establishing diplomatic ties with Israel were also received with a sigh of relief in Ramallah. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

US President Joe Biden concluded his four-day trip to the Middle East trying to give reassurances of Washington's influence in the region. In a speech during a summit with six Gulf states, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq in Jeddah, Biden said that the US will remain an active, engaged partner in the Middle East, and Washington will not walk away and leave a vacuum to be filled by Russia, China or Iran, he said. "The US is invested in building a positive future for the region, in partnership with all of you — and the US is not going anywhere," he said, according to a transcript of his speech. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

A group of UN human rights experts have called on Israel to release a Palestinian teen held since 2015. "His continuous detention, despite his deteriorating mental conditions, is a stain on all of us as part of the international human rights community," said a statement signed by the human rights experts. The experts said Manasra's imprisonment "has deprived him of childhood, family environment, protection and all the rights he should have been guaranteed as a child. To Ahmad we say, we regret we failed to protect you," said the statement signed by a host of rights experts, including Francesca Albanese, special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories, Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and Tlaleng Mofokeng, special rapporteur on the right to health. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Palestine on Sunday warned against Israel's new settlement plans after U.S. President Joe Biden's visit to the region. Israel's planning and building committee will convene to discuss plans to build 2,000 settlement units southeast of Jerusalem, according to Israeli media reports. Part of the plans was postponed until after Biden's visit, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said in a statement, calling it "an ugly Israeli exploitation of the visit to deepen and strengthen settlements." The statement called on the international community and the U.S. administration "to be vigilant and pay attention to this issue, especially since President Biden called for stopping unilateral measures, foremost of which is settlements." [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 **4,498,036**, of which **11,101** died and **4,415,338** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **71,597** active cases in Israel, **310** are in critical condition. Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- ❖ A group of 23 House Republicans introduced a resolution on Thursday against United States President Joe Biden's proposal to reopen the US consulate in Jerusalem to provide separate diplomatic services for Palestinians.
- ❖ A Palestinian woman activist was banned from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque for one week in a series of bans that extend for years, according to local sources.
- ❖ The United Nations Committee against Torture (CAT) will for the first time home in on the actions of the Palestinian Authority. Members of the Geneva-based body. The committee will determine whether the P.A. is in compliance with the U.N. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and investigate instances of forced disappearances, violent interrogations, the holding of the remains of Israeli soldiers, and other issues.
- ❖ The chairman of World Likud and former Israeli ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, revealed on Sunday evening that Prime Minister Yair Lapid plans to meet with Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas before the election.
- ❖ The General-Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) welcomed the outcomes of the Jeddah Security and Development Summit hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Chair of the 14th Islamic Summit, on July 16, 2022, in Jeddah, with the participation of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and the United States of America. The General Secretariat commended the speeches delivered by the leaders of the participating countries during this Summit, which provided an accurate diagnosis of the region's crises and challenges. The General Secretariat affirmed its support for all Arab and international efforts to achieve regional security, development, and stability.

**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/>