

CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development - REFORM



https://scontent.fir25-1.fna.fbcdn.net/v/t30.30808.6/295086070_584623232053512_6032916791154801220_n.jpg?nc_cat=108&ccb=1-7&nc_sid=730e16&nc_ohc=hsuGVVDod4X_Fz5T8&nc_ht=scontent.fir25-1.fna8ohr00_AT-ASVX_SrvY5b5dtQiosv24lb2mPLIDzWVchIVT9NR6oc=62E38384

*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.¹*

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.²

Global Level³

of COVID-19 Cases

of Recoveries

of Deaths

of Active Cases

575,407,059

545,199,481

6,403,455

23,804,123

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

²<http://www.corona.ps>

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

Local Level ⁴				
Location	# of COVID-19 Cases	# of Recoveries	# of Deaths	# of Currently Infected Patients
West Bank (including Jerusalem)	424,463 <i>Including 80,710 in Jerusalem</i>	415,268 (79,116)	3,691 (304)	5,504 (1,290)
Gaza Strip	257,633	248,061	1,987	7,585
Total	682,096	663,329	5,678	13,089

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics issued a report indicating that the exports increased in May, 2022 by 6% compared to April, 2022. It also increased by 14% compared to May, 2021 and reached USD 118 Million. Exports to Israel increased in May, 2022 by 8% compared to April, 2022 and it represented 92% of total exports in May, 2022. On the other hand, exports to other countries decreased by 12% during the same period compared to April, 2022. Imports increased in May, 2022 by 2% compared to April, 2022. It also increased by 46% compared to May, 2021 and reached USD 674.4 Million. Imports from Israel decreased by 1% in May, 2022 compared to April, 2022 and it represented 56% of total imports in May, 2022. On the other hand, imports from other countries increased by 4% compared to April, 2022. [Sources: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics' Website, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Today, the Palestinian Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, stated the following during the cabinet meeting:

- The international community must put pressure on the occupying forces to stop their persecution of Palestinian cities, towns, villages and camps, the latest of which was yesterday morning in the city of Nablus.
- We welcome the adoption, by an overwhelming majority, of the United Nations Economic and Social Council's two resolutions on the economic and social consequences of the occupation on our land, including Jerusalem, the situation of Palestinian women under occupation and the provision of assistance to them.
- We hold the occupying authorities fully responsible for the restrictions and disruptions to their movement, which travelers are subjected to through the Karama Crossing. We also call on these authorities to open Al-Quds Airport in Qalandia and remove obstacles to the movement of people and goods to and from Palestine. We are working together with Jordan to alleviate the suffering caused by the occupation's measures on the Crossing.
- Next Saturday, 30.07.2022, at nine in the morning, the Ministry of Education will announce the results of the general secondary exam for this year. In light of this occasion, we call upon citizens to be responsible, and to stay away from any manifestations associated with shooting, fireworks, or anything that would turn joys into sorrows, or break the law.

[Sources: The Council of Ministers' Website, 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, a house and residential tent, belonging to Palestinians, were demolished south of Hebron. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
3. Today, a truck transporting organic fertilizers was seized in the Al-Farisiyah area in the northern Jordan Valley. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
4. Today, the villages of Al-Jalama, Beit Qad and Deir Abu Daeef, northeast of Jenin, were invaded and their shops were raided. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
5. Today, Israeli navy threw tear gas canisters towards fishermen's boats in the central and northern Gaza Strip. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
6. Today, (8) Palestinians were arrested across several Governorates in the West Bank, including: Hebron, Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Bethlehem and Tulkarem. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
7. Today, the occupying forces chased the teams working to clean the archaeological site in the town of Sebastia, northwest of Nablus. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
8. Today, 45 detainees in the Israeli prisons are on an open-ended hunger strike for the second day in a row, and 40 detainees continue their hunger strike for the fourth day, in support of the two striking prisoners, Raed Rayan and Khalil Awawda, who rejected their continued administrative detention, amid serious health conditions. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Local and International Events

Regarding the ongoing refusal to implement decisions in the laws amending the procedural laws, the Palestinian Bar Association decided to suspend work today before all courts of all kinds and levels of regular, military, administrative and settlement courts. The Council called upon all colleagues to actively participate, in uniform (lawyer robes), in the sit-in scheduled from 11 AM until 1 PM in front of the Council of Ministers in the city of Ramallah. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

The Ministry of National Economy said today that the number of companies (with limited liability and owned by one person) registered since the new Companies Law came into effect in April amounted to 29 companies with a capital of 865,000 Jordanian dinars. The Director General of Companies Registration in the Ministry, Liana al-Atrash, indicated in a statement that the new companies law allows the registration of single-person companies without the need for a partner, which makes it a limited liability company or a limited private shareholding company. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

India contributed \$2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Sunil Kumar, Director of the West Asia and North Africa Division of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, presented the cheque of \$2.5 million to Karim Amer, the UNRWA Director of Partnerships of the Department of External Relations, in a signing ceremony at the UNRWA headquarters in East Jerusalem, an official statement from the UNRWA said. Karim Amer expressed gratitude, and appreciated India for its continuous efforts towards the Palestinian refugees. "This timely contribution is a strong demonstration of India's unwavering support to the work of UNRWA and commitment to the wellbeing of Palestine refugees. On behalf of UNRWA, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the Government of India for its continued funding to the Agency and its backing of Palestine refugees across the Middle East," he said. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Thousands of Palestinians today attended the funeral procession for two Palestinian youths killed by Israeli occupation forces during a raid last night in the West Bank city of Nablus. Israeli occupation forces killed two Palestinians, Abdelrahman Sobh, 28, and Muhammad Al-Azizi, 22, and injured more than a dozen others during the offensive, which targeted the old city quarter in Nablus. At least 10 people were hospitalized, with one of them suffering serious gunshot wounds in the head. The violent confrontations occurred after Israeli occupation forces and their vehicles stormed Nablus from several directions and surrounded the Al-Yasmina neighborhood in the Old City. [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 **4,551,146**, of which **11,291** died and **4,470,440** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **69,414** active cases in Israel, **310** are in critical condition. Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- ❖ Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas returned after a visit to Jordan where he met with his brother King Abdullah II.
- ❖ The Hamas-run government in the Gaza Strip will reduce its employees' salaries due to a financial crisis, a senior official said. Awni Al-Basha, Undersecretary of the Gaza Finance Ministry, said that reducing employees' salaries was a decision born out of an emergency and seeks to temporarily alleviate the government as financial crises worsens.
- ❖ Algerian runner Djamel Sedjati, who won the silver medal in the 800 metres, stood in solidarity with Palestine during the World Athletics Championships in the US, as Arab athletes took home three medals - including golds for Qatar and Morocco.
- ❖ The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has adopted the draft resolution on "economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the Syrian citizens in occupied Syrian Golan. The draft resolution was then adopted by a recorded vote of 43 favour to 4 against (Canada, Israel, Liberia, United States) with 4 abstentions (Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Solomon Islands, United Kingdom). The resolution stressed the principle of permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources and expressed concern that Israel as the occupying power, and Israeli settlers endanger and deplete natural resources in the occupied Syrian Golan.
- ❖ Amnesty International has said that a new UK trade deal with Israel "must not be a betrayal of Palestinians' human rights". International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan met the Israeli Ambassador to the UK Tzipi Hotovely in London on 20 July to begin talks on the issue. The UK has recently conducted a consultation over plans to negotiate a new UK-Israel Free Trade Agreement this year which will "upgrade" an existing Trade and Partnership Deal with Israel. Amnesty is warning that a poorly-drafted deal could allow the Israeli authorities to consolidate unfounded claims to occupied Palestinian land, expand illegal settlements, and perpetuate the system of apartheid associated with this.

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
4. <https://www.moh.gov.ps/portal/en/>