

# CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development - REFORM



<https://images.wafo.as/image/NewsThumbline/Large/5306ce77-5a18-4b78-a0a0-e11019120d41.jpg>

*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 **1,773,479** individuals are completely vaccinated.<sup>2</sup>

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

# of COVID-19 Cases

# of Recoveries

# of Deaths

# of Active Cases

578,800,915

548,792,461

6,412,347

23,596,107

<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)	423,385 <i>Including 80,710 in Jerusalem</i>	415,516 <i>(78,536)</i>	3,690 <i>(304)</i>	4,179 <i>(1,555)</i>
Gaza Strip	255,029	247,797	1,982	5,250
Total	678,414	663,313	5,672	9,429

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates said that the occupying state, under the election curtain, is racing against time to implement the largest possible number of expansionist settlement projects in the occupied Palestinian territory, and gives the green light to its arms to finish off the remaining lands of Palestinian citizens and allocate them in favor of expanding existing settlements or building more of them, in an open Israeli war and an official policy to annex and Judaize the widest possible area of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The Foreign Ministry added that hardly a day passes without implementing more settlement plans that devour hundreds of dunams of citizens' lands, the latest of which was the approval of building 364 new settlement units on the lands of citizens in Ras Karkar and Deir Ibzi', west of Ramallah, and uprooting and destroying them. [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 world is required to put pressure on the occupation authorities to stop their persecution of our cities, towns, villages and camps, the latest of which was yesterday morning in the city of Nablus, and the victims were two martyrs and eight wounded.
- We welcome the adoption, by an overwhelming majority, of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, two resolutions on the economic and social consequences of the occupation on our land, including Jerusalem, and the situation of Palestinian women under occupation, and the provision of assistance to them.
- We hold the occupation authorities fully responsible for the restrictions that travelers are exposed to through the Karama crossing, and we demand these authorities to open Al-Quds Airport in the Qalandia area, and to remove obstacles to the movement of people and goods to and from Palestine.
- Next Saturday morning 7/30/2022, at nine in the morning, the Ministry of Education will announce the results of the general secondary exam for this year, including all Palestinian schools in the homeland and the diaspora. On this occasion, we call upon our people 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, two prisoners, Khalil Awawda and Raed Rayan, who are on hunger strike are facing death in Ramle prison. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
2. Today, settlers stormed the courtyards of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, under strict protection from the Israeli occupation forces. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
3. Today, the health condition of the cancer-stricken prisoner, Nasser Abu Hamid, is rapidly deteriorating, and he is going through a very critical stage. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
4. Today, 12 Palestinian citizens were arrested after raiding several areas in the West Bank. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
5. Today, a Palestinian citizen was arrested and sums of money were confiscated in Hebron. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
6. Today, a Palestinian child was injured and five civilians were arrested, during the storming of Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
7. Today, Palestinian prisoner, Muhammad Subhi Muhammad Abu Tabikh, 41, from Jenin, entered his 21st consecutive year in the Israeli occupation prisons. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
8. Today, the customs police in Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate seized 500 Israeli SIM cards, prohibited from trading in the Palestinian market due to its harm on the economic, security and social side. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)



## **Local and International Events**

The new Tunisian constitution, which passed in a referendum on Tuesday, enshrines the right for Palestinians to establish a state in the Levant with Jerusalem as the new country's capital. "We defend the legitimate rights of the peoples who, according to this legitimacy, have the right to decide their own destiny, the first of which is the right of the Palestinian people to their stolen land and the establishment of their state over it after its liberation, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif [Jerusalem] as its capital," reads the preamble of the new constitution. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met yesterday during his visit to Venezuela with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela H E Carlos Faria Tortosa. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation ties and ways to support and promote them, including a range of topics of joint interest. The two sides also discussed the latest developments in the region, particularly the Palestinian cause. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

The family of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed while covering an Israeli military raid in the West Bank, will continue to fight for justice and accountability, her nephew told *The National* on Wednesday. Several members of Abu Akleh's family flew to Washington this week and met US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday to demand an independent investigation into her May 11 death. Her brother, Anton, and her niece and nephew, Lina and Victor, pressed Mr Blinken on several key issues including a US State Department report that the family believes let the Israeli Defence Forces off the hook. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

King Abdullah II of Jordan met earlier today the Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid in Al Husseinia Palace in the capital Amman. According to The Royal Hashemite Court, the King has reaffirmed the need to "create a political horizon to achieve just, comprehensive, lasting peace on basis of two-state solution and bolster regional security, stability, and development, which must include Palestinians". [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

China called for a more influential international peace conference to address the Palestinian issue. "China calls for a larger, more authoritative, and more influential international peace conference, in which all stakeholders in the Middle East process are invited to participate in exploring effective ways and means to politically resolve the Palestinian issue," China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations (UN), told the UN Security. [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 **4,567,893**, of which **11,347** died and **4,502,030** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **54,516** active cases in Israel, **310** are in critical condition. Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- ❖ The head of the Palestinian Lawyers Syndicate, Suhail Ashour, confirmed to the Accountability Hour program that the radical solution to the recent state of the Palestinian judiciary is the immediate reversal of the decisions in the recent law. Ashour talked about the latest protest developments and the activities that the Bar Association continues to protest against a series of decisions in the law amending the Execution Law, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Code of Civil and Commercial Procedures.
- ❖ The price of a liter of gasoline is expected to decrease, at the beginning of August, by at least 1.25 shekels. According to the Israeli public radio (Kan), the Israeli Finance Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, said that the increase in electricity prices by 8.6%, early next month, is "relatively moderate."
- ❖ Today, Ministry of Education spokesman, Sadiq Al-Khudour, announced the date for registration for the second round of high school exams. Al-Khaddour told Voice of Palestine radio that registration for the second session of high school will start from Sunday to Tuesday for students wishing to improve their grades, and until Thursday for non-completed students. It is stated that "The ministry is currently working on arranging examination halls," Al-Khadour said.
- ❖ Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita said that soon the diplomatic missions between Israel and Morocco will be upgraded to embassies. Bourita noted that there is discussion on "political issues on the agenda and strengthening bilateral relations between the two sides." The Israeli and Moroccan sides signed a normalization agreement under the auspices of the United States in late 2020.
- ❖ Pro-Palestine associations recently held sit-ins in protest of Israel's participated Premier Tech team in an annual bicycle race in the French-speaking part of Belgium. Raising Palestine flags, the participants called for intensifying the boycott of Israel as a means to support the Palestinian people's in their struggle for an independent, free and democratic state in line with the United Nations resolutions and the international law.

### **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/>