

CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development - REFORM



<https://images.wafa.ps/image/NewsThumbnail/Large/45715624-e9dd-42cd-96c2-3fe4d0d1c78f.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.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. **2,009,675** 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.²

Global Level³

# of COVID-19 Cases	# of Recoveries	# of Deaths	# of Active Cases
582,408,008	552,724,718	6,420,035	23,596,107

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

Today, during a meeting with the Minister of State for the German Foreign Ministry, Tobias Lindner, Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh discussed the convening of the joint committee between the two countries, and we called on Germany to recognize the state of Palestine and pressure to enable us to hold elections, including Jerusalem. Palestine on the 1967 borders is geographically continuous and viable, with Jerusalem as its capital. 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 recently:

- An invitation to join the third batch of the government program "Programming for Youth", which aims to qualify thousands of technical specialists in the field of computer, computing and electronic programming, and to employ a number of them within the same program and in various operating agreements with local and international companies. 90% of graduates of the first and second batches have already entered the labor market in the technological field.
- Congratulations all those who passed the high school exam and their families for passing this exam with their diligence. Dr Shtayyeh states: "I say to those who were unable to pass it that the paths to success are different and they are waiting for you. We are proud of all our sons and daughters and wish them success."
- The Palestinian Ministry of Health held a workshop to standardize the coding of medical procedures purchased from outside its hospitals by adopting the International Coding System (ICD10-CCS). The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Wael Al-Sheikh at the opening of the workshop This system facilitates obtaining accurate data related to the procedures that patients are referred to obtain, and thus taking appropriate corrective decisions accordingly. He continued, "The databases regarding the coding process will be unified between the hospitals of the Ministry of Health, the Service Purchase Department, and private and private hospitals, as part of the ministry's policy and strategy for developing health services."
- The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the National Institute of Public Health and the World Health Organization, is carrying out a survey on chronic diseases in Palestine. A team from the Ministry of Health may visit citizens at their homes for this purpose.

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, a Palestinian prisoner Khalil Awawda, 40, from the town of Idna, west of Hebron, continues his hunger strike for the 141st day in a row, in refusal of his administrative detention. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
2. Today, a Palestinian from the Gaza Strip was arrested while entering through the Beit Hanoun “Erez” crossing in the northern Gaza strip. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
3. Today, a house was demolished in the western side of Kafr ad-Dik town, west of Salfit. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
4. Today, the headquarters of Hilal Al-Quds Club in occupied Jerusalem was stormed. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
5. Today, a member of the Revolutionary Council of the Fatah Movement and Governor of occupied Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, was arrested. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
6. Today, dozens of settlers stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque, heavily guarded by the occupation police. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
7. Today, Al-Kharouf family was forced to demolish their “wooden roof” over their house in the Wadi Al-Joz neighborhood, north of the Old City of Jerusalem, under the pretext of not having a license. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
8. Today, a massive arrest campaign was launched against 39 Palestinian citizens of the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, most of whom are from Hebron. Raids and searches were carried out in separate areas of the Governorates. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Local and International Events

Netanyahu's annexation vow threatened Abraham Accords and US support, Jared Kushner says in new book. "Additionally, with annexation, Bibi risked near-unanimous condemnation at the United Nations," Kushner added. "And if he went forward unilaterally, there was no guarantee that our administration would block the international sanctions against Israel that might follow." [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

The Palestinian Ministry of Education announced on Saturday the results of the secondary schools' final exam, known as Tawjihi. Of the nearly 85,000 students who took the exam across Palestine, over 58,000 passed it, with a success rate of 68.12%. Despite the Israeli military occupation and the hermetic siege on the impoverished Gaza Strip, the Palestinian population remains one of the most educated in the Middle East. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the literacy rate in Palestine – estimated at 96.3 percent – is one of the highest in the region, and the illiteracy rate – 3.7 percent among individuals over the age of 15 – is one of the lowest in the world. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

The Jordanian medical delegation specializing in vascular surgery, headed by Brigadier Dr. Omar Al-Zoghbi, head of the specialty of vascular surgery at the Royal Jordanian Medical Services, performed major and qualitative operations in vascular surgeries for patients in the Gaza Strip. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

A sharp surge in the number of new COVID-19 cases in Palestine was recorded last week, mainly in the besieged Gaza Strip. The Ministry of Health published data showing that 10 people have died of Covid while 8,969 new cases were recorded in the days between July 24 and 31, after doing 22,434 tests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip only. It said four people have died in the West Bank, as 2,087 new cases were recorded, while 2,599 Covid patients have recovered. The Gaza Strip recorded six deaths, 6,082 new cases and 674 recoveries. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

South Africa President, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, also President of the African National Congress (ANC) in power, affirmed in his closing speech yesterday before ANC 6th Policy Conference, that his country and Party cannot rest as long as Western Sahara and Palestine are under occupation. "We cannot rest while Western Sahara remains under occupation. We cannot accept that occupation and oppression is to be the fate of the Palestinian people" he said to the participants to the conference held from the 28 to 31 July in Johannesburg. He further stated that "these are among the struggles that we need to take up with greater vigour if we are to contribute to building a better world." [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 4,579,737, of which 11,356 died and 4,527,926 recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the 40,455 active cases in Israel, 310 are in critical condition. Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- ❖ Nabil Abu Rudeineh, the official spokesman of the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, referred to the Israeli government's decision to deduct 610 million shekels from the tax funds it collects on behalf of the PA as "theft of the Palestinian people's money."
- ❖ As Israel builds ties with Arab nations in the Middle East, talk in Washington and Jerusalem has centered around what country will next join the Abraham Accords. One Gulf nation is rarely considered, given its ties to Hamas and strong alignment with the Palestinian cause: Qatar. But Qatar's emir, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, said in 2020 that he is open to normalizing ties with Israel, according to an excerpt from Jared Kushner's new book, *Breaking History: A White House Memoir*, that was obtained by *Jewish Insider*. The book will be published on Aug. 23.
- ❖ The spokesman for the European Union in the Palestinian territories, Shadi Othman, announced that during the last period, work was underway to start paying financial aid to the treasury of the Authority. Othman said in an interview with the official Voice of Palestine Radio, "We expect that during the next week, the first of these financial payments will be transferred to the Palestinian Authority, and its details and ways of disbursement will be announced during the next stage."
- ❖ The European Union condemned in a statement today a recent increase in violence by Israeli settlers across the occupied West Bank, which on Friday resulted in the killing of a Palestinian teenager near Ramallah. "Saddened by yet another young victim of settler violence: 15-year old Amjad Abu Alya was killed on Friday at Mughayyer village." A rapid & transparent investigation is needed. The EU firmly condemns the increase in settler violence & growing number of casualties, including children," said the EU in a tweet.

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/>