

CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development - REFORM



<https://images.waifa.ps/image/NewsThumbline/Lars/eecd95c7-e629-4e8e-9bc4-64fbd9f27c9a.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. **2,009,535** 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

585,660,657

556,188,672

6,428,576

23,043,409

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 overall Industrial Production Index (IPI) in Palestine reached 118.57 during June 2022 which indicates a sharp increase of 11.39% compared to May 2022 (Base Year 2019 = 100). The IPI for June 2022 increased due to the sharp increase in the activities of Manufacturing Industry by 13.09% which had a share of 87.89% of the total industry, and the activities of Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply by 4.58% which had a share of 7.38% of the total industry. While, the activities of Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation sharply decreased by 12.98% which had a share of 1.84% of the total industry, and the activities of Mining and Quarrying decreased by 3.38% which had a share of 2.89% of the total industry. Sources: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics' Website, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network

The Palestinian Ministry of Health affirmed its constant endeavor to develop its services and provide them in an optimal manner to all citizens of all categories, both civilian and military. The Ministry of Health called on all citizens to apply to government health insurance to receive services in all government health centers. Sources: The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website, Raya News Network, Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency.

The European Union has made a contribution of €20 million to support the Palestinian COVID-19 vaccination campaign, according to the Office of the European Union Representative in Jerusalem. The Office said in a press statement that the EU has made this contribution to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to support the cost of COVID-19 vaccines authorised by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and purchased by the PA.

It added that the reimbursement of costs incurred for the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines will help the Palestinian Authority to meet part of its financial obligations towards its citizens amid the difficult fiscal situation. It will notably support the Palestinian Authority to respond to COVID-19 pandemic, which is still present, while alleviating its financial burden and consequences. Sources: The Palestinian Ministry of Health's Website, Raya News Network, Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency.

The Palestinian Monetary Authority has issued the Financial Stability Report for the year 2021, which is one of the most important reports that it issues on a regular basis, in addition to the annual report, on the developments of the local and global economy. The report reviews the various developments in the Palestinian financial system, with all its components, including banking and non-banking institutions, and the risks to which this system may be exposed. Sources: The Palestinian Monetary Authority's 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, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society confirmed that the Israeli Prison Services continues to isolate the Palestinian prisoner, Muhammad Rajeh Al-Khalidi (35-years-old), from the village of Arana, west of Jenin, in the "Ayalon-Ramla" prison.
3. Today, the occupation court issued a house arrest ruling against the governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, without specifying a period of time, in preparation for his trial, and imposed a high financial fee. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
4. Today, work was suspended on an agricultural pond, belonging to Palestinians, in the northern Jordan Valley. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
5. Today, settlers invaded fenced-in agricultural land, belonging to Palestinians, in Al-Ma'arjat area, west of Jericho. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
6. Today, the spokesman for the Ministry of Education, Sadiq al-Khaddour, said that the schools under threat of demolition and located near the settlements amount to more than 36 schools, including six schools in occupied Jerusalem. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
7. Today, (23) Palestinians were arrested across several Governorates in the West Bank, including: Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Hebron and Bethlehem. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
8. Today, the village of Beit Duqqa, northwest of occupied Jerusalem, was invade, houses were searched and tear gas canisters were thrown at its residents. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Local and International Events

Amnesty International Wednesday called for the urgent release of a Palestinian prisoner who has been jailed as a child. "It is outrageous that the Israeli authorities have renewed Ahmad Manasra's spell in solitary confinement," Heba Morayef, Amnesty International's Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, said. She made her remarks responding to the Israeli Prison Service's (IPS) Wednesday decision to renew the solitary confinement of Ahmad Manasra, a Palestinian prisoner who has developed serious mental health problems since his arrest as a child seven years ago. "Continuing to detain Ahmad Manasra in such inhumane conditions is a callous act of injustice. Ahmad has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and is severely depressed," she added. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Benjamin Netanyahu has denied claims in Jared Kushner's upcoming memoir that Donald Trump was angry and surprised over plans announced by the former Israeli prime minister to immediately annex parts of the illegally occupied West Bank. Kushner, the former US president's son-in-law, was the architect of the Trump administration's Middle East peace plan for Israelis and Palestinians unveiled in January 2020, dubbed the "Deal of the Century." The plan - which was condemned across the board by Palestinians - recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital, declared the annexation of illegal settlements across the occupied West Bank and the Jordan Valley, and barred Palestinians from the right to resettle in their ancestral homes in Israel. In his new book, *Breaking History*, Kushner claimed that during a White House event unveiling the initiative, Netanyahu surprised the US administration by announcing his intention to immediately annex large swathes of the occupied West Bank. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

More Democratic voters in the US support the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement than oppose it, two new polls showed, and a large majority of Americans, including Republicans, are opposed to laws criminalizing boycotts against Israel. The polls add a new dimension to what is already seen as a gap between where American voters stand, especially in the Democratic Party, and where the Joe Biden administration and lawmakers stand on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, Middle East Eye reported. According to the surveys, conducted in May and in June by the University of Maryland's Critical Issues Poll, 33 percent of Democratic voters support BDS while 10 percent oppose it; the majority, 37 percent, said they did not know, while another 20 percent said they neither supported nor opposed it. "One of the most controversial issues in American political discourse about the Israeli-Palestinian issue has been the question of boycotts of Israel, especially the boycott, divestment, sanctions (BDS) movement. We sought to probe attitudes on this issue," Shibley Telhami, director of the University of Maryland's Critical Issues Poll, wrote for the Brookings Institute on Tuesday. [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 **4,592,578**, of which **11,399** died and **4,541,521** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **39,658** active cases in Israel, **310** are in critical condition.

Sources: Ma'an News Agency and <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries>.

- ❖ President Mahmoud Abbas is scheduled to deliver an important speech before the United Nations General Assembly in New York on the 23rd of next month, today said the Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to the United Nations, Riyad Mansour. He told Voice of Palestine radio that a meeting will be held between President Mahmoud Abbas and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the sidelines of the General Assembly meetings in New York in continuation of the effort made to ensure the success of the State of Palestine's full membership in the United Nations and to make all the arguments in support of this in order to salvage the two-state solution.
- ❖ Gaza's sole power plant will have to shut down within 48 hours if a blockade imposed by Israel is not lifted, officials warned on Thursday, as border tensions simmered.
- ❖ 60-year-old Hussein Kwarik was shot in the stomach after approaching an Israeli force. 'He didn't know where he was, didn't know what a checkpoint was,' his brother says, complaining that the family wasn't informed of the shooting at all.
- ❖ An Israeli plan permitting Palestinian travelers to fly out of one of its airports has received official approval. A first charter flight of passengers from the West Bank is set to leave from Ramon International Airport near Eilat in southern Israel later this month.
- ❖ The UN on Wednesday accused Israel of causing the displacement of Palestinians living in a Bedouin community in the occupied West Bank. In a report, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said around 100 Palestinians were forced to leave the Ras At-Teen Bedouin community near Ramallah city last month. The report cited unbearable living conditions as a result of Israel's "coercive measures", settler violence and demolitions of their shelters as reasons that forced Palestinian residents to leave their community.

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/>