

CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development - REFORM



*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. **2,010,480** individuals in the West Bank and Gaza Strip took the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and **1,774,383** individuals are completely vaccinated.²

Global Level³

of COVID-19 Cases

of Recoveries

of Deaths

of Active Cases

595,403,017

568,805,682

6,454,886

20,142,449

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)	426,048 <i>Including 81,150 in Jerusalem</i>	418,120 (80,026)	3,694 (304)	4,233 (820)
Gaza Strip	262,430	248,061	1,987	12,383
Total	688,478	666,181	5,681	16,616

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics issued a press release highlighting the decrease in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Palestine as a result of the decrease in the prices of chicken, dried vegetables and flour despite the increase in the prices of fruits, potatoes, eggs and fuel during July 2022. The CPI for Palestine during July 2022 recorded a decrease by 0.37% compared with June 2022 (1.04% in Gaza Strip, 0.40% in the West Bank**. While, the CPI increased by 0.91% in Jerusalem J1). The Palestinian CPI during July 2022 increased by 3.95% compared with July 2021 (5.74% in Jerusalem J1, 4.21% in the West Bank, and by 2.05% in Gaza Strip). [Sources: The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics' Website, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

The Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees released a statement revealing the difficult health situation of many sick Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, who are subjected to medical negligence and procrastination in receiving treatment. The Commission held the occupation prisons administration fully responsible for the continuing series of medical neglect against the prisoners, and demanded all international institutions, human rights institutions and the Red Cross to play their necessary role towards the prisoners. [Sources: The Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees' Website, Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency.](#)

The Palestinian Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, stated: "We will defend our Palestinian curriculum and the right of our children to education in all regions." He further added: "Stopping the completion of the construction of the Ain Samiya school, and the attempts to impose Israeli curriculum on Palestinian schools in East Jerusalem targets Palestinian's identity, narrativ, and the future generations. [Sources: The Council of Ministers' Website, Ma'an News Agency and Wafa News Agency.](#)

With Israeli elections due in October – the major players vying to become Israel's next Prime Minister – current caretaker PM -Yair Lapid, current Minister of "Defense" - Benny Gantz and current Opposition Leader - Bibi Netanyahu have yet to issue any statement on the Saudi plan released on 8 June to merge Jordan, Gaza and part of the 'West Bank' into a single territorial entity to be called 'The Hashemite Kingdom of Palestine'. [Sources: 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, an agricultural facility, belonging to a Palestinian, was demolished in the Masoudiya area in the lands of Burqa village, northwest of Nablus. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
3. Today, Hebron City was invaded, tear gas canisters were thrown at its residents and homes were searched. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
4. Today, Section 7 in Ramon Prison was invaded and extensive searches were conducted. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
5. Today, the town of Qabatiya, Jenin, was invaded and tear gas canisters were thrown at its residents. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
6. Today, the village of Qarawat Bani Hassan, west of Salfit, was invaded. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
7. Today, (24) Palestinians were arrested across several Governorates in the West Bank, including: Bethlehem, Ramallah, Jenin and Nablus, in addition to occupied Jerusalem. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
8. Today, a water line and agricultural equipment, belonging to Palestinians, were dismantled and seized from the Al-Ras Al-Ahmar area, southeast of Tubas. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)
9. Today, a group of settlers, guarded by occupying forces, prevented the owners of land, actors and national institutions from the towns of Kafr Al-Labad, Beit Lid and Saffarin, east of Tulkarm, from reaching their lands. [Sources: Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Local and International Events

Israel is imposing tighter restrictions on the six Palestinian prisoners who escaped from the high-security Gilboa Prison on 6 September last year, Sama news agency has reported. The move has been condemned by the head of the Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners' Affairs Authority, Qadri Abu Bakr. "These are extra punishments based on racist and permanent hate," said Abu Bakr. "Ever since the prisoners broke out of Gilboa Prison and spent a number of days in complete freedom, the Israeli political and military levels have been frustrated." Officials have been trying to vent their frustrations on the prisoners by imposing extra restrictions and isolating them, he added. According to international law, explained Abu Bakr, recaptured prisoners are not liable to being punished for escaping. "However, Israel violates international laws without being held accountable."

The absence of international deterrence and accountability encourages Israel to continue with its crimes against the Palestinian people, today said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in reaction to the Israeli army killing this morning of 21-year-old Mohammad Shaham in an East Jerusalem neighborhood. "This heinous crime is an extension of the series of executions and field assassinations committed by the occupation forces on instructions from the political level in the occupying power," said the Foreign Ministry, holding the Israeli government fully and directly responsible for this crime. It said that it will follow up on this new killing at all levels, especially the International Criminal Court, the Human Rights Council and other United Nations legal organizations as part of its ongoing quest to end Israel's impunity. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

A senior United Nations official lost her job after condemning the Palestinian Islamic Jihad for "indiscriminate rocket fire" against Israel in the recent flareup between Israel and Gaza. Sarah Muscroft served as the head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory before losing her position. Muscroft's public rebuke of the PIJ rocket fire had noted that the safety of all civilians is "paramount." "Relieved to see a ceasefire agreed [upon], ending hostilities impacting both Palestinians and Israeli civilians. Such indiscriminate rocket fire of Islamic Jihad provoking Israeli retaliation is condemned. The safety of all civilians is paramount – the ceasefire must be upheld," Muscroft had tweeted. [Sources: Ma'an News Agency, Wafa News Agency and Raya News Network](#)

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations on Sunday urged the U.N. to reinstate Sarah Muscroft, who was ousted as head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Palestinian Authority for condemning Palestinian Islamic Jihad. "Israel is disturbed to see that Palestinian outrage over tweets would so quickly devolve into ending the ability of a senior U.N. staffer to keep her job, and to express herself," wrote Gilad Erdan in an open letter to U.N. Secretary General António Guterres. [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 **4,614,413**, of which **11,501** died and **4,582,480** recovered. According to the Health Ministry's statistics, of the **20,432** active cases in Israel, **266** are in critical condition.

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

- ❖ The Melbourne University Student Union (UMSU) passed a motion on Monday regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, supporting Palestine and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS) against Israel. The motion accused the Jewish state of apartheid and ethnic cleansing. Jewish organizations have criticized the motion, revealing that Jewish students in Australia suffer from "death threats and a planned stabbing."
- ❖ Palestinian families campaigning for Israel to return their children's bodies.
- ❖ Various NGOs and civil society networks write an open letter to the Secretary General. NGOs and civil society networks from Europe, Asia, North America and Africa have signed an open letter to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation criticising their silence over the recent attacks on Palestinians and their increasing silence over the issue of Palestine. The letter, organised by the Decolonial International Network and the Universal Justice Network, is co-signed by dozens of organisations and networks from as far afield as Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Iran, UK, Lebanon and Pakistan.
- ❖ The World Bank stated that it is working with the Palestinian authorities to raise the economic growth rates based on a long-term development programme. Country Director for West Bank and Gaza, Kanthan Shankar, said that the bank has numerous programs that contribute to achieving the economic growth, building the state institutions, in addition to the projects that fulfil the direct needs, specially the development programs which are evidently undergirding the Palestinian resilience.
- ❖ UN chief slammed the 'unconscionable' killing of Palestinian children after a report that atleast 19 children had been killed in Gaza strikes

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/>