



Situation Report #73: Occupied Palestine

26 January – 02 February 2026 (until 08:00 AM)

The Government Communication Center at the Prime Minister's Office issues the Situation Report once a week in English, Arabic, Spanish, and French. The next Situation Report will be issued on 09 February 2026.

Key Developments

DAY 115 SINCE THE CEASEFIRE DEAL: ISRAEL HAS KILLED 523 PALESTINIANS IN GAZA, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 71,795 PALESTINIANS KILLED SINCE THE GENOCIDE BEGAN [UNOCHA](#) reported the continuation of Israeli airstrikes, shelling, and gunfire across the Gaza Strip between 22 and 28 January, resulting in the martyrdom of 28 Palestinians and injuries to 62 others. Additional casualties were reported on Saturday, when Israeli warplanes carried out airstrikes on multiple areas across Gaza, [killing at least 32 Palestinians](#), including children, and injuring others. Furthermore, [UNICEF](#) warned that conditions for children in Gaza remain critically dire, with at least 100,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition and requiring sustained, long-term care. Additionally, around 1.3 million people—many of them children—are in urgent need of adequate shelter. In this context, [UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini](#) stated that humanitarian operations continue to be severely hindered by ongoing violence, repeated displacement, access restrictions, bureaucratic hurdles, and persistent limitations on the entry of essential supplies. Moreover, [Haaretz](#) reported that Israel continues to deny permission for the evacuation of critically ill patients from Gaza to hospitals in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, for potentially life-saving treatment. This is occurring despite an estimated [20,000 Palestinians](#) in urgent need of medical care who are seeking medical evacuation from Gaza through the Rafah border crossing, Gaza's only gateway to the outside world on the border with Egypt. In a related development, Israeli occupation authorities informed the Israeli Supreme Court that [foreign journalists would not be allowed to enter Gaza](#), even following the reopening of the Rafah crossing, thereby maintaining comprehensive restrictions on international media access.

DESTRUCTION OF GAZA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM THREATENS CHILDREN'S FUTURE

Nearly two and a half years of sustained Israeli attacks on [Gaza's education system](#) have inflicted devastating damage on the education sector, placing the future of an entire generation of Palestinian children at serious risk, with over 90% of schools damaged or destroyed and 60% of school-aged children unable to attend in-person classes. The widespread destruction of schools, universities, and libraries—alongside the collapse of early childhood care services—has left more than 335,000 children under the age of five exposed to severe risks of developmental delays and long-term educational setbacks. In response,



[UNICEF](#), in coordination with the Ministry of Education, has expanded its Back to Learning program to help Palestinian children in Gaza regain access to education.

ONGOING LAND CONFISCATION AND HOME DEMOLITIONS IN OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

According to statements by the [Jerusalem Governorate](#), Israeli occupation authorities continue to advance a series of settlement expansion measures targeting Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem, including large-scale infrastructure projects and demolition orders. They announced a significant [expansion of colonial settlement infrastructure in the center of occupied West Bank](#), allocating approximately NIS 2.5 billion for major road projects linked to the "Mateh Binyamin" settlements to facilitate and entrench large-scale settlement expansion, further consolidating Israel's de facto annexation in the occupied Palestinian territory, part of a broader policy to entrench settlement expansion and consolidate territorial contiguity between Israeli settlements at the expense of Palestinian land and geographic integrity. The Israeli occupation municipality of Jerusalem is moving forward with allocating a substantial budget for the expansion of "Highway 45" settlement project north of Jerusalem. This [colonial project](#) entails the confiscation of approximately [280 dunums](#) (280,000 square meters) of Palestinian land and has been allocated more than NIS 500 million under the pretext of developing "Route 437." In parallel, Israeli occupation authorities have issued immediate [demolition orders for 14 Palestinian homes](#) in the al-Bustan neighborhood of Silwan, citing the recurring pretext against Palestinians of "construction without permits."

ISRAELI SETTLER ATTACKS ON PALESTINIAN WATER RESOURCES

Israeli colonial settlers [attacks](#) on Palestinian water infrastructure have increased across multiple occupied West Bank governorates, involving repeated vandalism and sabotage of wells, pipelines, and springs, which disrupts water access for tens of thousands of Palestinians. These attacks occur amid ongoing structural restrictions on Palestinian water access and contribute to heightened humanitarian pressures on affected Palestinian areas.

UN NEARS FINANCIAL COLLAPSE AMID OUTSTANDING MEMBER DUES

The [United Nations is facing an escalating financial crisis](#) that threatens the continuity of its core operations, leaving it at risk of imminent financial collapse. Secretary-General António Guterres has warned that persistent non-payment and delays in outstanding dues by member states—most notably significant reductions by the United States—could force the suspension of United Nations activities as early as July 2026, urging the 193 member states to overhaul the UN's financial rules or accept "the very real prospect of the financial collapse" of the organization.

ISRAEL'S CONTINUED AGGRESSION AGAINST THE NORTHERN WEST BANK

The occupation's aggression has persisted for 378 days against Jenin and its refugee camp, 372 days against Tulkarem and its refugee camp, and 352 days against Nour Shams refugee camp.



Summary

Figure 1: Gaza Strip (Since 7 October 2023)



Figure 2: West Bank, incl. occupied Jerusalem (Since 7 October 2023)

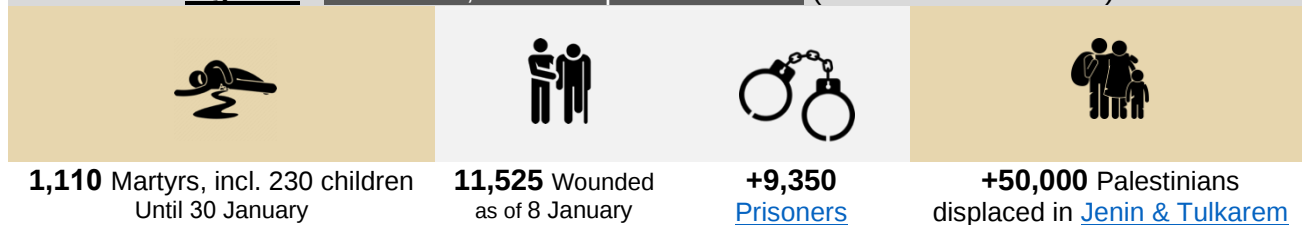
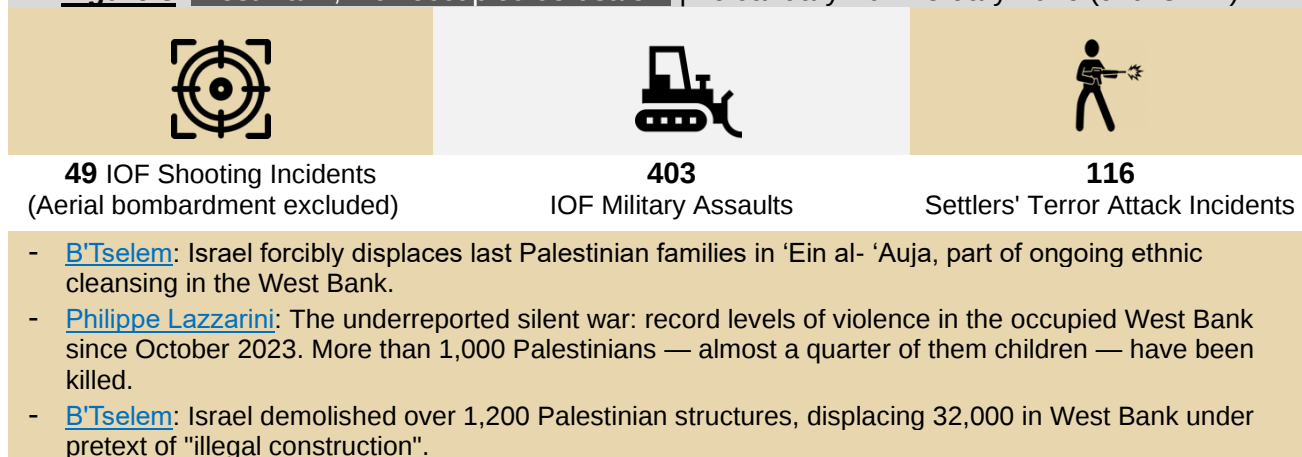


Figure 3: West Bank, incl. occupied Jerusalem | 26 January - 01 February 2026 (until 8 AM)



Sources: Ministry of Health, [Wafa](#), [UNOCHA](#), [PJS](#), [NAD's Palestinian Monitoring Group](#)



In Focus

Recent reports indicate that Israeli occupation forces (IOF) have carried out large-scale and systematic exhumation operations east of Gaza City, reportedly under the pretext of searching for the remains of the last Israeli captive in the Gaza Strip, in the absence of any Palestinian or neutral international oversight, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, raising serious concerns of grave desecration and unlawful handling of human remains. According to [Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor](#), at least 21 of Gaza's 60 cemeteries have been destroyed over the past two years, with documented incidents involving bulldozing graves, exhuming and removing bodies, mixing and damaging remains, and vandalizing burial sites in Gaza City, Jabalia, Beit Hanoun, and Khan Younis. These actions, which include documented cases from December 2024, violate international humanitarian law obligations to protect cemeteries, respect the dignity of the dead, and prohibit degrading treatment of human remains. The organization reported that over the past two years, the IOF has systematically destroyed cemeteries across Gaza, vandalized graves, tampered with bodies, and transferred dozens of remains, and that ongoing operations lack independent verification of the handling or transfer of exhumed bodies. Euro-Med affirmed that any search operations cannot justify the desecration of graves and calls for an immediate halt to exhumations, the presence of neutral international oversight, and accountability through the International Criminal Court and relevant UN mechanisms. These developments coincide with plans to partially reopen the Rafah crossing under strict Israeli security measures, raising further concerns about Israel's long-term military control, Palestinian population movement, and civilian protection in southern Gaza.

Government Updates

- Despite the severe financial crisis caused by the Israeli occupation's continued withholding of Palestinian clearance revenues—constituting approximately 68% of the State of Palestine's total public income—the [Palestinian Government has sustained the implementation of essential public projects and services](#). These efforts include the opening of new schools, the upgrading of hospital departments, the allocation of public land for renewable energy projects and wastewater treatment facilities, as well as road rehabilitation and broader infrastructure development across multiple areas. In the Gaza Strip, the Ministry of Education continues to open new learning points, bringing their total number to 683 sites currently serving more than 317,000 students. These actions are being carried out in parallel with ongoing efforts by the Palestinian Water Authority to repair water connections and transmission networks. At the same time, the Ministries of Social Development and Relief remain engaged in providing assistance to thousands of vulnerable families, in close coordination with international partner organizations. Additionally, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, in cooperation with UNDP, continues to clear rubble from key sites and main roads surrounding health and educational facilities. These interventions are complemented by further actions undertaken by line ministries—particularly the Ministries of Agriculture and Health, among others—aimed at mitigating the impacts of the ongoing aggression and strengthening the resilience of Palestinian citizens.