Situation Report #79: Occupied Palestine

09 March – 16 March 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 30 March 2026.

Key Developments

ISRAELI OCCUPATION FORCES MASSACRE PALESTINIAN FAMILY, INCLUDING TWO CHILDREN, IN TAMMUN

In the early hours of 15 March 2026, and in a horrific and gruesome massacre, Israeli occupation forces cold-bloodedly massacred a Palestinian family of four in Tammun, southeast of Tubas, killing Ali Bani Odeh (37), his wife Wa'ad Bani Odeh (35), and their children, Mohammed (5) and Othman (7). Their other two children, Mustafa (8), and Khaled (11) sustained injuries to the head and face during the targeted assault. PRCS reported that the Israeli occupation forces systematically obstructed its medical teams, preventing them from reaching the victims inside the vehicle and forcing them to leave the area. First hand testimony of one of the surviving children revealed a pattern of direct attack, physical abuse and psychological humiliation, as soldiers opened direct gunfire at the family, assaulted the children and forced them to witness their killed parents and siblings while being interrogated. The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the massacre as an extrajudicial execution and a continuation of genocidal crimes, and, coupled with escalating colonial settler violence, part of a broader, systematic campaign of destruction and forced displacement in the occupied West Bank, exploiting the wider regional escalation.

DAY 157 SINCE THE CEASEFIRE DEAL: ISRAEL HAS KILLED 663 PALESTINIANS IN GAZA, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 72,239 PALESTINIANS KILLED SINCE THE GENOCIDE BEGAN

As the world remains increasingly preoccupied with the widening war between Israel, the United States, and Iran, the suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza continues to deepen and intensify. Five months after the ceasefire, Israeli occupation forces (IOF) persist in conducting military operations and attacks across the Gaza Strip, repeatedly targeting civilians and further exacerbating an already catastrophic situation. Recent incidents underscore the continued toll on civilians. One Palestinian was killed and others injured in the Al-Zaytoun neighborhood after an airstrike carried out by an Israeli quadcopter drone. In a separate incident, a five-year-old boy was killed in Beit Lahiya. On Thursday, four Palestinians in northern Gaza were killed after IOF claimed they had crossed the so-called "yellow line." The following day, three more Palestinians, including two children, were killed east of Gaza City. Beyond these lethal attacks, Israeli occupation authorities have imposed severe restrictions on humanitarian access. According to the United Nations, nearly all aid movements through the Israeli-controlled "Kerem Shalom Crossing (Karm Abu Salem)" have been blocked, depriving civilians of urgently needed humanitarian assistance and further compounding the already dire conditions facing the Palestinian people in Gaza.

UNRESTRAINED ISRAELI SETTLER TERROR IN THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK

According to a recent media brief by the PLO Negotiations Affairs Department, Israeli settler terror in the occupied West Bank, including areas around occupied Jerusalem, has sharply increased, taking advantage of and exploiting the "fog" of the ongoing war involving Israel, the United States, and Iran. Between 28 February and 10 March 2026, nearly 128 settler attacks were recorded, resulting in the killing of seven Palestinians and injuries to more than 40 others. These incidents involved live ammunition, assaults on civilians, destruction of agricultural property, livestock theft, and road closures, which have contributed to forced displacement and heightened restrictions on Palestinian livelihoods.

FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND UNDERMINING PALESTINIAN RESOURCES

In the area of Atouf, southeast of Tubas in the northern Jordan Valley, increasing attacks and threats by Israeli settlers, along with illegal measures enforced by the IOF, have led to the forced displacement of three Palestinian families. At the same time, the IOF and settlers closed the roads and entrances leading to the eastern part of Atouf and destroyed water lines, leaving around 30 families under siege and threatening thousands of dunams of agricultural land and over 12,000 sheep with severe water shortages.

ISRAELI VIOLATIONS AGAINST PALESTINIAN JOURNALISTS DURING FEBRUARY 2026

According to the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS), 122 violations against Palestinian journalists and media institutions were documented during February 2026 in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. The recorded incidents included 52 cases in which journalists were prevented from conducting field coverage or detained while working, and 17 cases in which journalists were barred from covering events in the courtyards of the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound. The report also documented incidents involving live fire, tear gas, and sound grenades aimed at media crews, along with arrests, interrogations, and home raids. Since the beginning of 2026, the PJS has recorded 22 arrests of Palestinian journalists.

ACCELERATED EXPANSION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK

Israeli authorities continue to advance settlement construction in the occupied West Bank, as the Higher Planning Council of the Israeli Civil Administration plans to review the approval of 126 settlement housing units in the settlement of "Sha'arei Tikva" on 11 March 2026. Based on available planning data, this move would increase the total number of settlement housing units approved in 2026 to 2,534.

ISRAEL DISMISSES CHARGES AGAINST FIVE ISRAELI SOLDIERS ACCUSED OF RAPE

According to Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, the recent dismissal of charges against five Israeli soldiers involved in raping and torturing a Palestinian detainee at Sde Teyman detention center reflects a broader pattern of impunity for crimes committed against Palestinian prisoners. Euro-Med Monitor emphasizes that such cases are part of a larger trend of documented violations against Palestinian detainees, including torture, sexual violence, and inhumane treatment.

ISRAEL'S CONTINUED AGGRESSION AGAINST THE NORTHERN WEST BANK

The occupation's aggression has persisted for 420 days against Jenin and its refugee camp, 414 days against Tulkarem and its refugee camp, and 394 days against Nour Shams refugee camp.

Summary

Figure 1: Gaza Strip (Since 7 October 2023)

at least **72,239** Martyrs, incl. at least 21,283 children	at least **171,861** Wounded	**832,865** displacement movements until 14 February (since ceasefire)

11,200 Citizens Remain Missing	**+1,700** Health Workers Killed	**259** Journalists/ Media Workers Killed	**18 of Gaza's 36** (Partially or Fully) as of 13 March

- MSF: "The needs in Gaza remain enormous"
- Gaza: Eight killed by Israeli airstrike on vehicle
- Recent Emerging Video: IOF openly shoot hungry civilians at Gaza aid distribution points "for amusement."

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

1,122 Martyrs, incl. 232 children Until 07 March	**11,756** Wounded as of 10 February	**+9,500** Prisoners	**+ 33,000** Palestinians remain displaced in Jenin & Tulkarem

Figure 3: West Bank, incl. occupied Jerusalem | 09 March - 15 March 2026 (until 8 AM)

37 IOF Shooting Incidents (Aerial bombardment excluded)	**346** IOF Military Assaults	**91** Settlers' Terror Attack Incidents

- Video: Armed Israeli settlers attack homes and fire on Palestinian citizens in Sa'ir, east of Hebron.
- CWRC: Within two weeks, Israeli settlers carried out 192 Attacks against Palestinians
- Report: IOF impose West Bank lockdown and heightened restrictions amid rising settler violence.
- Report: Israeli settlers exploit Iran war curbs to raise West Bank violence

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Sources: Ministry of Health, Wafa, UNOCHA, PJS, NAD's Palestinian Monitoring Group

In Focus

Recent developments in occupied Jerusalem highlight ongoing Israeli policies that significantly impact Palestinian urban space and religious rights. According to the Jerusalem Governorate, Israeli municipal planning maps have established new administrative boundaries in the Palestinian town of Silwan, effectively reducing its area and reclassifying parts of it under what the Israeli occupation authorities describe as the "City of David." These are part of broader 'tourism and archaeological' projects aimed at land control and reshaping the historical narrative surrounding the area, while also restricting Palestinian urban growth and access to municipal services. Concurrently, the Israeli occupation authorities have continued to restrict access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, preventing Muslim worshippers from attending all prayers, including Friday prayers, during the holy month of Ramadan. The Jerusalem Governorate reports that the mosque has remained closed to worshippers for nearly two weeks, with the occupation authorities citing "security concerns" linked to the ongoing US-Israeli war. These measures are part of a broader pattern of spatial and political restructuring in occupied Jerusalem, impacting Palestinian very existence, heritage, and religious freedoms in areas around Jerusalem's Old City and its holy sites.

Government Updates

During its weekly session last Tuesday, the Cabinet reviewed the key features of the **2026 budget**, which will be structured as an **emergency budget based on actual cash flow**. Under this approach, the Palestinian Ministry of Finance will, through the end of the year, **allocate available liquidity in the public treasury** in a manner that safeguards the continued provision of essential services—**particularly education, healthcare, and security**—while maintaining strict expenditure controls and enhancing domestic revenues. **Partial salaries** to public employees will also continue in accordance with **available financial resources** until the resumption of clearance revenue transfers. The Cabinet underscored that these exceptional financial arrangements cannot, under any circumstances, substitute for the **Palestinian people's legitimate rights** to the clearance revenues withheld by the Israeli occupation government, which currently total approximately **$5 billion**. In this regard, the Cabinet renewed its call on **international partners** to intensify **pressure on Israel to release these funds without delay**. In line with the principles of partnership and transparency, the Ministry of Finance is undertaking **broad consultations** with dozens of civil society organizations regarding the draft budget prior to its submission in final form to the Cabinet for approval. In a related context, and as part of **its reform agenda**, the Government has initiated a review and reactivation of the role of directorates in the governorates. This effort aims to strengthen their capacity to deliver services to citizens, support their steadfastness, and ensure sustained direct engagement with our people. These steps come amid escalating Israeli occupation measures restricting the movement of Palestinians, including the imposition of more than **one thousand military checkpoints and iron gates that fragment the occupied West Bank** and impede movement between its governorates.