Situation Report #76: Occupied Palestine

16 February – 23 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 02 March 2026.

Key Developments

DAY 136 SINCE THE CEASEFIRE DEAL: ISRAEL HAS KILLED 614 PALESTINIANS IN GAZA, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 72,072 PALESTINIANS KILLED SINCE THE GENOCIDE BEGAN

According to UNOCHA, airstrikes, shelling, and gunfire have continued across the Gaza Strip, resulting in more Palestinian casualties and extensive damage to infrastructure. Among the reported incidents, 12-year-old Youssef Asaliya was killed in an Israeli drone strike in Jabalia, north of Gaza City, while 20-year-old Muhanad al-Najjar was killed by Israeli occupation forces' (IOF) fire east of Khan Younis on the first day of Ramadan. On Saturday, two additional Palestinians were killed in Israeli drone strikes in northern and southern Gaza. The IOF has intensified airstrikes and heavy artillery shelling on the second day of Ramadan, compounding an already catastrophic humanitarian situation amid widespread destruction following two years of Israel's genocidal war against the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, UNRWA has emphasized that humanitarian conditions across Gaza remain dire, further deteriorated by severe restrictions on humanitarian access and the continued disruption of essential services.

ISRAELI MINISTER PROPOSES "MIGRATION" PLAN FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

Israeli Minister Bezalel Smotrich stated that in his next term, he will work to "encourage migration" of Palestinians from both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He called for the cancellation of the "cursed" Oslo Accords and the extension of Israeli sovereignty over what he called as "Judea and Samaria," in reference to the occupied West Bank, asserting that there is "no other long-term solution. " In response, B'Tselem said that such statements reflect a policy aimed at displacing Palestinians, as Israel seeks to continue its ethnic cleansing, dispossession of Palestinians, and Jewish domination, calling on the international community to do everything in its power to stop Israel's crimes.

DESTRUCTION AND DAMAGE TO CULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE GAZA STRIP

A recent report by the PLO's Negotiations Affairs Department highlights significant damage to Gaza's cultural heritage caused by ongoing Israeli aggression, including the destruction of historic neighborhoods, places of worship, museums, and markets, as well as the looting of antiquities. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry documented Israeli attacks on and looting from cultural and religious sites, including Qasr al-Basha. The Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities reports that 226 of 316 key archaeological and cultural sites have been destroyed or

significantly damaged. Following the October 2025 ceasefire, UNESCO verified damage to at least 150 cultural sites since October 2023. Estimated direct physical damage to the cultural sector amounts to USD 120 million, with broader reconstruction costs across Gaza estimated at USD 70 billion.

ONGOING ISRAELI SETTLERS' TERROR ATTACKS AGAINST PALESTINIANS

Israeli colonial settlers shot and killed 19-year-old Nasrallah Abu Siyam, a Palestinian American, and wounded several others during an attack on the occupied West Bank village of Mukhmas. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres condemned Abu Siyam's killing and called for a swift investigation, urging the Israeli occupation government to take concrete steps to halt and prevent Israeli settler violence against Palestinians. In a separate incident in the occupied West Bank, a Palestinian child was killed, and two others were injured on Tuesday in the village of Al-Jiftlik, north of Jericho, after an explosion involving remnants of IOF munitions. Meanwhile, 17-year-old Mohammad Hanani was fatally shot by IOF east of Nablus.

UNDERMINING FREEDOM OF WORSHIP... RESTRICTIVE ISRAELI MEASURES AT AL-AQSA MOSQUE COMPOUND DURING RAMADAN

According to Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, the Israeli occupation authorities have imposed a series of restrictions on access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound ahead of Ramadan. These measures, intended to limit Palestinian access to the compound, include expanded expulsions, age-based entry limits, permit requirements, and restrictions on the Islamic Waqf Department's authority to manage the mosque and organize religious activities. Since the start of 2026, more than 250 expulsion orders have been issued, nearly 25 Waqf employees have been removed, and four individuals have been detained.

UN REPORT HIGHLIGHTS ETHNIC CLEANSING RISKS IN PALESTINE

A UN Human Rights Office report warns that Israeli occupation actions in Gaza and the West Bank may amount to ethnic cleansing. Between November 2024 and October 2025, at least 463 Palestinians, including 157 children, have been starved to death in Gaza, and civilian infrastructure was extensively damaged. In the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, the IOF carried out arbitrary detention, torture, home and structure demolitions, and a unnecessary use of force.

ISRAEL'S CONTINUED AGGRESSION AGAINST THE NORTHERN WEST BANK

The occupation's aggression has persisted for 399 days against Jenin and its refugee camp, 393 days against Tulkarem and its refugee camp, and 373 days against Nour Shams refugee camp.

Summary

Figure 1: Gaza Strip (Since 7 October 2023)

at least **72,072** Martyrs, incl. at least 21,283 children	at least **171,741** Wounded	**832,865** displacement movements until 14 February (since ceasefire)

10,000 Citizens Remain Missing	**+1,700** Health Workers Killed	**259** Journalists/ Media Workers Killed	**18 of Gaza's 36** (Partially or Fully) as of 19 February

- United Nations: "Ramadan in Gaza: Deprivation, high prices and the hardships of displacement"
- The Guardian: "Medics in UK and US say they have been barred from Gaza after speaking out"
- Video: Ramadan began in Gaza amid the ruins of shattered mosques.

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

1,116 Martyrs, incl. 231 children Until 21 February	**11,756** Wounded as of 10 February	**+9,300** Prisoners	**+50,000** Palestinians displaced in Jenin & Tulkarem

Figure 3: West Bank, incl. occupied Jerusalem | 16 February - 22 February 2026 (until 8 AM)

55 IOF Shooting Incidents (Aerial bombardment excluded)	**332** IOF Military Assaults	**89** Settlers' Terror Attack Incidents

- Report: "Israel allocates 244 million shekels for land registration projects in Area C"
- Video: IOF blocks Palestinians' access to Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound during Ramadan
- Video: Israeli settlers set fire to dozens of sheep during a raid on a farm, south of Hebron

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

In Focus

The Israeli occupation authorities last Tuesday issued an expropriation order on to confiscate 2,000 dunums of land from the towns of Sebastia and Burqa, north of Nablus Governorate, including the Sebastia archaeological site, according to Minister Mu'ayyad Sha'ban, head of the Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission. He stated that the order (No. 26/1) constitutes a continuation of a prior declaration of intent issued in January 2025 (Order No. 2/25), and that the newly disclosed figure clarifies the full scope of the land targeted, which extends beyond the archaeological boundaries to adjacent agricultural areas and potential urban expansion areas. Sha'ban noted that the Israeli occupation authorities are exploiting heritage and antiquities as a pretext to entrench effective control over Palestinian land, part of a broader Israeli pattern of using administrative and 'legal' tools to consolidate and entrench de facto colonial annexation in the occupied West Bank. The procedure undermines landowners' rights, restricts access to agricultural resources, and threatens cultural and civilizational heritage. This systematic land theft highlights broader policies aimed at consolidating Israeli military occupation of the West Bank. Sha'ban called for urgent legal and diplomatic action to challenge the order and safeguard cultural heritage sites and surrounding Palestinian land. He added that protecting archaeological sites will remain an integral part of safeguarding the land and national identity, and that any attempt to transform heritage into an instrument of control or annexation will be confronted through all available legal and national means.

Government Updates

The Palestinian Government continues to face a severe financial crisis as a result of the Israeli occupation government's ongoing full withholding of Palestinian tax revenues, in clear violation of signed agreements and applicable legal frameworks, for nearly ten months. These revenues account for approximately 70% of the Ministry of Finance's total income, leading to significant imbalances in the Government's ability to meet its financial obligations. Despite these challenges, the Government has continued to pay partial salaries to public employees. Last week, it paid 60% of November's salary, while employees continue to shoulder mounting burdens after not receiving full salaries for nearly four years due to this Israeli systematic policy of withholding Palestinian tax revenues. These developments come amid extremely difficult economic and living conditions. The Palestinian economy has contracted by more than 35%, while unemployment rates have risen to unprecedented levels. This deterioration is largely attributed to occupation-imposed restrictions, including more than one thousand military checkpoints and gates that hinder the movement of citizens between cities and towns, weaken commercial and economic activity, and deepen the overall state of recession. Unemployment rates have reached approximately 46% in occupied Palestine.