



Escalating Violence and Unrest in Palestine

Situation Report | May 13, 2022

As we approach the anniversary of Israel’s founding on May 15 – known by Palestinians as the “Nakba” (Catastrophe) – violence and unrest continues to ramp up in Palestine, as it has throughout 2022.

As of April 18, 37 Palestinians had been killed by Israeli forces during 2022, and 3,524 have sustained injuries.¹ The state of unrest spiked during Ramadan, the holiest month of the year in Islam. Between April 5 and 18, 13 Palestinians were killed, and 947 sustained injuries.²

The increased violence during Ramadan instilled a great sense of fear in Palestinians, as it came less than a year after the 11 days of airstrikes on Gaza in May 2021. This fear, coupled with increased incursions on the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, hindered many Palestinians from celebrating Ramadan to the fullest extent. The violence and movement restrictions, increases the need for medications and medical supplies as well as flexible humanitarian responses.

Increased Violence

On Thursday, April 21, Israel conducted air raids on Gaza to attack a complex allegedly used to produce rocket engines. This event followed air raids on Monday, April 18, in response to a rocket fired from Gaza. According to witnesses, several homes in the al-Bureij refugee camp sustained damage. Prior to the air raid, a rocket was fired from Gaza and struck Israel. Israeli police reported that a house sustained slight damage, but no injuries occurred. The police also claimed that four more rockets were fired from Gaza after the raids, but the air defense systems intercepted them.³

The same day, Israeli police forces raided the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. According to a medic who was inside the compound at the time, 30 Palestinians sustained injuries from pepper spray and rubber-coated bullets. One man took a rubber bullet to the back

¹ [Protection of Civilians Report \(5-18 April 2022\) | UNOCHA](#)

² [Protection of Civilians Report \(5-18 April 2022\) | UNOCHA](#)

³ [Israeli fighter jets attack Gaza for second time in a week | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

and had to be transferred to the hospital. Palestinian youth responded to the raid by throwing stones and petrol bombs.⁴

Israeli police stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound once again and injured 57 Palestinians on Friday, April 22.⁵ The police entered the compound dressed in full riot gear and fired stun grenades and rubber-coated bullets, while Palestinians threw stones.⁶ One man injured during the raid, Walid al-Sharif, fell into a coma on Sunday, April 24. According to his family, Israeli police hit al-Sharif in the head or neck with a sponge-tipped bullet. However, police claim that he fell while throwing stones.⁷ On April 26, an Israeli raid on the Aqabet Jaber refugee camp resulted in the killing of Ahmad Ibrahim Owaidat, a 20-year-old Palestinian.⁸ During a raid on the [Jenin](#) area on April 27, an 18 year-old Palestinian, Ahmad Fathi Masad, was killed by Israeli forces.

According to the Ministry of Health, anera.org/gaza, he was killed by a bullet to the head. The same raid wounded three other Palestinian youth, all of whom sustained injuries from live fire. On the same day, Israeli forces arrested 15 or more Palestinians while conducting raids. In the two weeks prior, Israeli forces killed a total of 11 Palestinians in the West Bank. Six of those deaths occurred in Jenin.⁹

On the last Friday of Ramadan, April 29, Israeli police raided the Al-Aqsa mosque compound and injured at least 43 Palestinians. According to the Red Crescent, Palestinians sustained mostly upper-body injuries, and 22 people went to the hospital. Israeli police claimed they entered the compound in response to Palestinians throwing stones and fireworks. Police fired tear gas and rubber-coated bullets at Palestinians, according to witnesses, and arrested three people, one for “inciting the mob” and two for throwing stones. Over the two-week period prior to the raid, almost 300 Palestinians sustained injuries during Israeli raids of the mosque.¹⁰

On May 5, Israeli forces stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, resulting in 16 injuries of Palestinians and dozens of arrests. Fourteen of the injuries sustained resulted from rubber-coated bullets and tear gas, and two people sustained injuries from beatings.¹¹ Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian man on May 8 for attempting to enter Israeli through a barrier. According to the Israeli military, firing at the man was in accordance

⁴ [Israeli police fire rubber bullets in new Al-Aqsa incursion | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

⁵ [Palestinian wounded at Al-Aqsa compound slips into coma | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

⁶ [New Israeli raid at Al-Aqsa mosque leaves Palestinians injured | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

⁷ [Palestinian wounded at Al-Aqsa compound slips into coma | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

⁸ [Israeli forces kill Palestinian youth in occupied West Bank raid | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

⁹ [Palestinian killed during Israeli raid on Jenin Camp | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

¹⁰ [Israeli forces raid Al-Aqsa mosque, over 40 Palestinians injured | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

¹¹ [Israeli forces storm Al-Aqsa as hundreds of settlers gather | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

with procedures.¹² On May 11, Thaer Misset-Yazouri, an 18 year-old Palestinian, was killed by Israeli forces in Al Bireh.¹³

Shireen Abu Akleh Assassination

On Wednesday, May 11, Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was shot dead while covering Israeli raids of Jenin. According to witnesses and the Palestinian Ministry of Health, Abu Akleh was shot by Israeli forces. Abu Akleh was standing with journalists and wearing a press vest when the shooting occurred. Ali al-Samoudi, another journalist for Al Jazeera, sustained injuries when he was shot in the back. According to another journalist on the scene, Shatha Hanaysha, no confrontations occurred between the Palestinian fighters and the Israeli army. Hanaysha also stated that the Israeli army continued to fire at the journalists after Abu Akleh collapsed.¹⁴

On Thursday, May 12, the Palestinian Authority (PA) announced that it was rejecting Israeli's request to conduct a joint investigation. Instead, the PA stated that it will provide the results of its own investigation to Abu Akleh's family, official authorities, the US, and Qatar. President Mahmoud Abbas announced that they will refer the killing to the International Criminal Court.¹⁵

On Friday, May 13, Israeli police attacked the funeral procession for Abu Akleh.

Nakba Day

Each year on May 15, Palestinians remember the Nakba, or "catastrophe," which occurred in 1948 after the declaration of the State of Israel. The state was established on 78% of Palestine's total landmass. However, the Nakba does not just represent one event; it represents a continuous process of settlers moving into Palestine. The declaration of the State of Israel displaced around 750,000 Palestinians to make room for settlers, and only 150,000 Palestinians continued living in what was now Israel.¹⁶

In 2022, the Nakba is being remembered by Palestinians and supporters across the world through rallies and marches held throughout the weekend. Many of these events will double as a memorial for journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed just four days before the Nakba and has become a symbol for both Palestinian resistance and the plight of Palestinians.

¹² [Palestinian man shot dead for trying to cross West Bank barrier | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

¹³ [Shireen Abu Akleh: Al Jazeera reporter killed by Israeli forces | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

¹⁴ [Shireen Abu Akleh: Al Jazeera reporter killed by Israeli forces | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

¹⁵ [Palestine won't let Israel evaluate bullet that killed journalist | Forbes](#)

¹⁶ [Nakba Day: For Palestinians, not just an historical event | Al Jazeera News Network](#)

Anera's Response

Following the May 2021 bombing in [Gaza](#), Anera acted quickly to meet the immediate needs of those injured and displaced by the escalation. Our Gaza team provided vouchers for food and non-food items to meet the needs of those displaced by the conflict and partnered with World Central Kitchen to distribute daily hot meals to those displaced. Anera also responded by arranging overseas air shipments of needed medicines and medical supplies and locally procuring blood bags, testing kits, and supplies for Gaza's Central Blood Bank. **If another escalation occurs, Anera will utilize needs assessments and the expertise of its local teams in Gaza and the [West Bank](#) to respond to the holistic needs of those affected.**

Anera's emergency response committee is also putting together **an emergency response plan** now, in light of increasing upheaval in Palestine. The plan includes

- procuring and storing vital medications and healthcare supplies in Anera's distribution centers in Gaza and the West Bank, only distributing them in times of emergency. Medications include those for treating diabetes, hypertension, inflammation, and cardiovascular conditions.
- procuring and storing medical supplies such as chest tubes, abdominals pads, pediatrics medical tools, urine bags, gloves, surgical drapes, and other supplies that are needed in states of emergency.
- reaching out to suppliers in regards to procuring emergency medications and medical supplies. Currently, Anera is procuring high need medications and medical supplies with long expiration dates to distribute in the case of an emergency situation.
- requesting that our local partners be ready to send their ambulances as a means of transporting our medical donations team, so it can move safely from our distribution centers to recipients in order to deliver medicines and medical supplies.
- providing support for those displaced through e-vouchers that can be redeemed at local supermarkets. The use of e-vouchers ensures that food and nutritional needs are met and that displaced persons can maintain their dignity.
- keeping open channels of communication with our donors and local partners so we are ready to respond quickly to real needs on the ground.