



# Palestine Situation Report

November 3, 2022

## Background

Information about the current period of COVID-19, food security, and sporadic violence is summarized in Anera's last [Situation Report \(August 2022\)](#).

## Overview

On the night of October 24th, Israeli troops marched into the old city of Nablus, the West Bank's second-largest city. Nablus is a stronghold of an armed group called the Lions' Den. The Israeli forces blew up an explosives laboratory and exchanged gunfire with Palestinians, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. Five Palestinians were killed, and another 20 were wounded in the fighting.<sup>1</sup> Two of those killed in the raid were unarmed barbers walking home from work.<sup>2</sup> The raid also sparked gunfire between Israeli forces and Palestinian Authority security forces.<sup>3</sup> On the same day, another Palestinian was killed in Nabi Saleh. In response to these recent killings, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said, "our goal was and remains to inflict severe and lasting damage on terrorism and its agents in Jenin and Nablus and anywhere else where terrorist nests grow."<sup>4</sup>

This raid comes during a period of escalating tension between Israel and the West Bank. Israeli raids and killings have become almost a daily occurrence in the West Bank, especially in Jenin and Nablus. For Palestinians living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, 2022 is the deadliest year since 2006. At least 105 Palestinians were killed as of October 18th, including 26 children. This is a 57% increase in fatalities over this time the previous year.<sup>5</sup> This escalation in violence and raids in the West Bank is a part of Israel's Breaking the Wave campaign. Israel started the campaign on March 31st with the stated aim of eliminating the "threat of Palestinian terrorism" through raids and attacks, particularly in the West Bank.<sup>6</sup> Israeli officials assert that they have stepped up their efforts in the West Bank because the Palestinian authorities are not doing enough to prevent attacks against Israelis.<sup>7</sup> Between September 27th and October 10th, Israel

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<sup>1</sup> [5 Palestinians killed as Israeli troops raid gunmen's hideout | NBC News](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Thousands mourn Palestinians killed by Israel in Nablus | Israel-Palestine conflict News | Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Six killed as Israel targets militants in West Bank raid | BBC News](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Six killed by Israeli forces in the deadliest day for Palestinians this year | CNN](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Statement on the alarming increase in violence in the West Bank and East Jerusalem | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>6</sup> [The occupied West Bank cities at centre of resistance to Israel | Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Fears of a third Intifada as Palestinian deaths reach 7-year high | CNN](#)

conducted 145 search-and-arrest operations in the West Bank, resulting in 127 Palestinians arrested, including 13 children.<sup>8</sup> Fifteen of the raids turned violent, resulting in 198 Palestinians being injured, including 40 injured by live ammunition.<sup>9</sup> These attacks came right after the escalation of violence in Gaza in August, which killed 44 Palestinians, including 15 children.

These escalations in violence raise the prospect of the situation transforming into a third intifada.<sup>10</sup> Young civilian Palestinians have begun forming themselves into small armed groups in some areas of the West Bank, particularly around the Jenin refugee camp and in Nablus. These groups challenge the Palestinian authorities and have been carrying out attacks against Israeli forces.<sup>11</sup> The deteriorating security situation in the West Bank causes concerns among civilians. The United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process also stressed that the “negative trajectory” of the situation in the West Bank puts at risk the socioeconomic institutions that are in place.<sup>12</sup>

The tension between Israeli forces and armed Palestinians has boiled over into other facets of life as well. On October 4th, Israeli settlers living in the West Bank marched into the Huwwara Secondary Boys School in Nablus where 350 students study. The attacks injured two students who were treated in the hospital for wounds. Some suffered from tear gas inhalation after the Israeli military threw tear gas grenades.<sup>13</sup>

As of this writing, on November 3, three missiles were shot out of Gaza into Israel.

### Livelihoods

Movement restrictions are also posing a threat to the lives of many Palestinians who rely on Israeli work permits to exit Gaza. From September 25th to 27th, the Israeli authorities shut down the border crossing between Gaza and southern Israel, preventing 17,000 Palestinians from going to their jobs and helping provide an income for their families. During these two days, Israel also decreased the power supply to Gazans, limiting their daily electricity usage from 12 to 10 hours a day.<sup>14</sup>

During the intensification of the Israeli raids across the West Bank, Israeli forces have enacted a series of collective punishment measures for Palestinians in the territory, mainly aimed at imposing restrictions on movement. These include widespread road closures in the Nablus Governorate, and blockades of entire neighborhoods such as

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<sup>8</sup> [Protection of Civilians Report | 27 September – 10 October 2022 | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Fears of a third Intifada as Palestinian deaths reach 7-year high | CNN](#)

<sup>10</sup> ['Lions' prowl West Bank amid talk of a new intifada | France 24](#)

<sup>11</sup> [5 Palestinians killed as Israeli troops raid gunmen's hideout | NBC News](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Israel-Palestine: 'Meaningful initiatives' needed soon, to reverse current course | UN News](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Israeli settlers attack Palestinians in Nablus amid army siege | Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Movement in and out of Gaza: update covering September 2022 | UNOCHA](#)

Shu'fat and the nearby Anata. The closure of Shu'fat Refugee Camp for six days left the city completely isolated from its neighborhoods. These blockades have sparked civil disobedience campaigns in nearby neighborhoods across Jerusalem. The campaigns have even reached people in Gaza, who have joined protests in support of Palestinian communities in the West Bank.<sup>15</sup>

The blockade of Nablus has a negative effect on the already poor economic situation in the West Bank. The city is home to 9,000 commercial and 29,000 industrial establishments. Nablus's blockade means that the number of Palestinians and Arab Israelis who shopped and dined there has dropped significantly, hurting local business owners and their workers. Some of the city's residents have raised concerns about not being able to access their agricultural fields during the olive harvest season, one of the main sources of livelihood for Palestinian farmers.<sup>16</sup> A series of attacks throughout October targeted the Palestinian olive farmers in various areas of the West Bank, such as the village of Kisan east of Bethlehem.<sup>17</sup> Additionally, many villages have said that the blockade is preventing them from accessing basic food supplies. Several Palestinian political groups in Nablus released a statement over the weekend of October 21 saying that the raids and the blockade have a negative impact on the education, health, social, and economic sectors.<sup>18</sup>

Multiple incidents throughout October have affected the healthcare sector and access to timely medical support. On October 2nd, two Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) medics, who were part of emergency medical teams, were assaulted. On October 5th, soldiers blocked the entrances of the central warehouses of the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Throughout the month, the blockade of Nablus has hindered frontline workers from delivering healthcare. On October 19th, a PRCS ambulance was stopped when soldiers detained the driver. These difficulties are growing, during a time when demand is simultaneously increasing.<sup>19</sup>

## Anera's Response

Anera continues to monitor the violent escalations and consult with our local partners on their needs. We stand ready to quickly deliver humanitarian assistance if circumstances further deteriorate. Anera mobilizes quickly to respond to crises, providing immediate and long-term relief. In the short term, Anera meets the food security needs of those affected through the provision of hot meals, food parcels, and food vouchers. Anera also provides hygiene kits and medical aid, such as medicines and

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<sup>15</sup> [What is Happening in the West Bank Right Now | Mondoweiss](#)

<sup>16</sup> [2021 Olive harvest season in the West Bank amidst a triple challenge | ICRCI](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Israel settlers attack Palestinian farmers amid Nablus siege | The New Arab](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Palestinian Authority demands end to Nablus 'siege' | The Jerusalem Post](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Attacks on Healthcare | Insecurity Insight](#)

medical supplies, as well as relief items like clothing and blankets as needed. In the longer term, Anera rehabilitates damaged shelters and infrastructure, including homes, schools, water and sanitation networks, and healthcare centers.