

Palestine Situation Report

June 20, 2023

Background

Information about the recent escalations in Gaza is summarized in Anera's last <u>Situation</u> <u>Report (May 2023)</u>.

Overview

In the early morning on Monday, June 19, Israeli forces killed four Palestinians and wounded 91 others during a raid of the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank.¹ Two of the Palestinians killed were members of the armed Islamic Jihad group.² The Palestinian Ministry of Health identified the four victims, including one 15-year-old Palestinian boy.³ Seven members of the Israeli border police and army sustained moderate injuries, according to the Israeli military.⁴

Israeli forces used stun grenades, live ammunition, and toxic gas during the June 19 raid conducted to arrest two suspects.⁵ While the Israeli military exited the camp, an explosive device hit one of their vehicles and crossfire broke out between Israeli forces and armed Palestinian groups. The explosion prompted an aerial attack from an Israeli Apache helicopter, which is one of the most recent documented uses of an Israeli attack helicopter in the West Bank since the second intifada.⁶ While Israeli forces withdrew from Jenin camp, they remained stationed on the outskirts of the camp.⁷

Raids in Jenin

This escalation follows multiple violent conflicts in the Jenin refugee camp, including the large-scale raid on January 26 [see our <u>Timeline of Crises in Palestine</u>], which resulted in the deaths of nine Palestinians within the camp and one death in the hospital caused by wounds sustained during the raid.⁸ One of the Palestinians killed was associated with an armed Palestinian militia group, according to group officials.⁹ On the

⁴ At least 4 Palestinians killed as Israeli raid leads to West Bank gunbattle | NBC News

¹ <u>Israel-Palestine live: 5 killed as Israeli forces raid Jenin camp | Al Jazeera;</u> Information updated as of 12:00 pm EST 06/19/23

² Israeli troops, backed by helicopter, kill 5 Palestinians in clash | Reuters

³ Four killed, at least 45 wounded in Israeli raid on Jenin camp | Al Jazeera

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Five Palestinians killed in Israeli military raid in Jenin | BBC

⁷ Four killed, at least 45 wounded in Israeli raid on Jenin camp | Al Jazeera

⁸ Nine Palestiians killed in Israeli raid in Jenin | BBC

⁹ Ibid.

same day, Israeli forces shot and killed another Palestinian man in al-Ram, north of Jerusalem, making it one of the deadliest days in the West Bank this year.¹⁰ Following the January 26 raid, the Palestinian Authority paused security coordination with Israel.¹¹ OHCHR and EU officials expressed concern with the escalating violence in Jenin after the raid.12

Three additional escalations occurred during March, with 13 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces during raids in the city of Jenin.¹³ A raid on March 16 came a day after the Palestinian Authority said it would engage in a security meeting with Israel on March 19.14 On May 29, one Palestinian was killed, six Palestinians were wounded and another six were arrested during an Israeli raid of the Jenin refugee camp.¹⁵ The series of raids on the Jenin refugee camp in the past few months represent the ongoing and increasingly deadly escalation of tensions between Israeli forces and Palestinian groups in the West Bank. One hundred twelve Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank and East Jerusalem by Israeli forces between January 1 and May 29, 2023.¹⁶

Emergency Medical Aid

Escalations pose a significant threat to civilians, especially in regard to receiving necessary medical aid. Ambulances have been reported to be blocked or damaged by Israeli forces while attempting to assist injured Palestinians in the West Bank.¹⁷ Nibal Farsakh of the Palestine Red Crescent Society claimed Israeli forces directly targeted four ambulances following the June 19 raid.¹⁸

Military Checkpoints, Restrictions and Demolitions

Israeli-imposed mobility restrictions in the West Bank, including military checkpoints and separation walls, continue to harm the Palestinian economy and prevent necessary resources from reaching vulnerable communities. Approximately 1.8 million people in the West Bank and Gaza are food insecure (90% of whom are in Gaza).¹⁹ Limited access to basic services and worsening food security coincides with the demolition of

¹⁰ Israel army kills 10 Palestinians, including elderly woman | Al Jazeera

¹¹ Israeli troops kill 7 Palestinian gunmen, 2 civilians in Jenin clash, Palestinians say | Reuters

¹² Israel/Palestine: UN experts condemn renewed violence and Israeli killings of Palestinians in occupied West Bank | OHCHR press release: Statement by the EU High Representative on the Events in Jenin | The Office of the European Union Representative (West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA)

¹³ At least 6 Palestinians killed during Israeli West Bank raid | AP News, Israeli special forces kill 3 Palestinians in Jenin shootout | Al Jazeera: Israeli forces kill four Palestinians in latest Jenin raid | Al Jazeera

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Protection of Civilians Report | 16-29 May 2023 | OCHA

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Israel army kills 10 Palestinians, including elderly woman | Al Jazeera; Nine Palestiians killed in Israeli raid in Jenin I BBC: Israel-Palestine live: 5 killed as Israeli forces raid Jenin camp | Al Jazeera ¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ March 2023 Palestine Country Brief | WFP

Palestinian homes and property by Israeli authorities in the West Bank, which further undermines Palestinians' livelihoods. In the first quarter of 2023, 290 structures were demolished or seized and 413 people displaced in the West Bank, which represents a 46% and 78% respective increase from the first quarter of 2022.²⁰

Anera's Response

Anera continues to monitor recent escalations in the West Bank and is prepared to provide emergency relief. Anera has decades of experience in delivering aid, including medicines, medical supplies, food and hygiene vouchers, and other needed assistance. Anera aims to ensure that families affected by escalations are able to maintain their dignity and meet their food security and nutrition needs despite movement restrictions and other access challenges.

²⁰ West Bank demolitions and displacement | January-March 2023 | OCHA