



# Palestine Situation Report

July 5, 2023

## Background

Information about ongoing raids and escalating violence in the West Bank is summarized in Anera's last [Situation Report \(June 2023\)](#).

## Overview

On July 3, Israeli forces carried out an airstrike on the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, accompanied by forced evacuations of Palestinians from their homes and destruction of roads.<sup>1</sup> More than ten airstrikes hit the densely populated camp on Monday. On the following day, the large-scale air and ground operation continued in Jenin, displacing more than 500 Palestinian families — some 3,500+ people — due to damaged homes and safety concerns.<sup>2</sup>

Damage to infrastructure has prevented necessary medical resources from reaching wounded Palestinians in the refugee camp and interrupted supplies of water and electricity.<sup>3</sup> The Palestinian Ministry of Health confirmed 12 Palestinians were killed and approximately 143 were injured during the raid.<sup>4</sup> The Israeli raid and blockade of Jenin ended in the morning of July 5th. Israeli forces reported 15 air strikes using drones and helicopter gunships, along with 150 armored military vehicles and 1,000 special forces members.<sup>5</sup> The [series of raids](#) in Jenin refugee camp in the past six months, along with the use of more sophisticated weapons and increasingly complex military operations, reflects an upward trend in violence that poses a significant threat to vulnerable communities in Palestine.

## Escalation of Violence in Jenin

The latest raid represents the largest in a series of other Israeli operations in the Jenin refugee camp, including five raids carried out in January, March, May and June [see our [Timeline of Crises in Palestine](#)]. However, this most recent raid was the largest assault since April 2002. Israeli forces have used helicopter gunships in the last two raids on the

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<sup>1</sup> [Palestinians in Jenin camp: From Nakba to Israel's latest assault | Al Jazeera](#); [Israeli Forces' Operation in Jenin – Flash Update #1 as of 16:30, 3 July 2023 | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Updated 7/4, 16:30; Israeli forces operation in Jenin | Flash Update #2, 4 July 2023 | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Israeli Forces' Operation in Jenin – Flash Update #1 as of 16:30, 3 July 2023 | UNOCHA](#); *ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> [Israeli forces operation in Jenin | Flash Update #2 as of 16:30, 4 July 2023 | UNOCHA](#); [Jenin attack live | Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Why did Israel use helicopter gunships on Jenin refugee camp? | Al Jazeera](#)

camp. The last documented use of this tactic prior to these raids was in 2006.<sup>6</sup> The use of helicopter gunships further escalates confrontation between Israeli forces and Palestinian resistance groups by increasing the likelihood of casualties and damage to infrastructure in dense urban areas.<sup>7</sup>

These raids are taking place amid an increase in settler violence in the West Bank and plans for increased settlement expansion.<sup>8</sup> On March 28, settlers injured at least six Palestinians in an attack in [Huwara](#) and set fire to homes and vehicles. On June 21, Israeli settlers set fire to dozens of homes and cars in Turmus Ayya, a town in the occupied West Bank.<sup>9</sup> The UN has also reported an increase in the use of violence by Israeli settlers, with an average of 95 monthly attacks since January.<sup>10</sup> In July alone, Israeli settlers set fire to olive trees in Nablus, attacked and terrorized a Palestinian family in the village of Burqa, set fire to a truck in Nablus, and destroyed Palestinian crops in Bethlehem.<sup>11</sup>

### Jenin Infrastructure

Raids in Jenin caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including roads, homes, hospitals and economic centers. Forces bulldozed roads they claimed to be lined with explosives, destroyed buildings,<sup>12</sup> broke water and sewage pipes, and knocked down electricity poles, cutting off water and electricity for residents.<sup>13</sup> The municipality of Jenin issued a statement on Monday in which it stressed that its crews did not have access to repair damage caused to water and electricity networks.<sup>14</sup> After the end of the raid on July 5, the deputy governor of Jenin, Kamal Abu al-Rub, reported that 80 percent of homes in the city were damaged, leaving thousands of Palestinian refugees displaced for a second time.<sup>15</sup> Israeli-imposed mobility restrictions during the raids and in their immediate aftermath further threatened the well-being of Palestinians, especially those in need of immediate emergency relief and assistance.

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<sup>6</sup> [Why did Israel use helicopter gunships on Jenin refugee camp? | Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> [Israeli settlers storm into Palestinian town in West Bank as Israeli airstrike escalates crackdown | AP News](#)

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> [Twitter post, July 4, 2023 | TRT World](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Settlers attack and terrorize a Palestinian family in a northern West Bank village | Wafa News Agency](#); [Israeli settlers set fire to dozens of olive trees in Nablus-area town | Wafa News Agency](#); [Israeli settlers torch Palestinian truck in Nablus | Wafa News Agency](#); [Israeli settlers uproot trees, destroy crops in Bethlehem | Wafa News Agency](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Israel ends deadly raid in West Bank Palestinian refugee camp | CBS News](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Israeli forces launch biggest military operation in West Bank's Jenin since 2002 | CNN](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Israeli forces destroy main networks of electricity and water | Wafa](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Jenin attack live | Al Jazeera](#)

Jenin refugee camp is a densely populated area that is home to 14,000 displaced Palestinians.<sup>16</sup> Jenin has some of the highest rates of poverty and unemployment among the 19 refugee camps in the West Bank.<sup>17</sup> Grinding poverty, poor infrastructure and crowded communities worsen the impact of raids on the camp. With three generations of Palestinians living in the camp, many experienced displacement and the destruction of their homes by Israeli forces in 2002.<sup>18</sup> The Palestine news agency reported 4,000 people fled Monday night and Tuesday.<sup>19</sup>

## Health

Israeli forces inspected vehicles attempting to enter the camp, including ambulances, which limited access to medical assistance.<sup>20</sup> In the last several raids, Israeli forces have demonstrated an intentional effort to prevent ambulances and other medical assistance from reaching Palestinians within the camp.<sup>21</sup> In the recent raid, officials from the World Health Organization and Doctors Without Borders have stated that medical personnel are significantly hindered by destruction of roads and that staff have been hit by live ammunition while trying to reach critically injured Palestinians.<sup>22</sup> Israeli forces deployed dozens of tear gas canisters at the entrance of Jenin Governmental Hospital.<sup>23</sup> Published videos show rescue teams of medics and ambulances being stopped by Israeli officials at the border of the camp.<sup>24</sup> Other routine medical services and hospital visits have been disrupted as well, such as the prevention of an ambulance carrying a Palestinian woman in labor into Jenin.<sup>25</sup> The Palestinian Red Crescent Society is the lead ambulance service in the area and they have reported significant damage to their vehicles, making it harder still to get the wounded the treatment they need.

## Intensifying and Multiplying Attacks

On Wednesday morning, Israeli forces conducted airstrikes in Gaza, allegedly attacking a Hamas site and causing no injuries. Forces conducted the airstrikes in response to five intercepted rockets fired at Israel from Gaza.<sup>26</sup> The Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that the airstrikes damaged property but caused no casualties. Israeli forces

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<sup>16</sup> [Why did Israel attack Jenin? West Bank operation explained | Reuters](#)

<sup>17</sup> [Jenin Camp | UNRWA](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Palestinians in Jenin camp: From Nakba to Israel's latest assault | Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>19</sup> [UN experts: Israeli air strikes and ground operations in Jenin may constitute war crime | Wafa](#)

<sup>20</sup> [Israeli forces operation in Jenin | Flash Update #2 as of 16:30, 4 July 2023 | UNOCHA](#)

<sup>21</sup> [Israel army kills 10 Palestinians, including elderly woman | Al Jazeera](#); [Nine Palestians killed in Israeli raid in Jenin | BBC](#); [Israel-Palestine live: 5 killed as Israeli forces raid Jenin camp | Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Aid groups alarmed at Jenin access curbs, scale of Israeli attack | Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Ibid.](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Israeli forces block medics trying to help injured Palestinians | Al Jazeera Newsfeed](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Israeli forces prevent ambulance from transporting a woman in labor in Jenin | Wafa News Agency](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Israel strikes Gaza, 12 Palestinians, Israeli soldiers killed in Jenin assault | France24](#)

fired missiles at three sites: southwest of Gaza City, northwest of Beit Lahia, and in Beit Hanoun, causing damage to homes near the first two sites.<sup>27</sup>

## Anera's Response

### Health

Anera recently procured and distributed chronic medications in Jenin, Nablus and Qalqilya. We are also supporting hospitals as they respond to the attacks in Jenin by providing much-needed antibiotics, analgesics, and other consumables and medical supplies. And we are sending international shipments of donated medications to the clinics and hospitals most affected by the ongoing attacks.

With additional funds, Anera will locally procure medications and needed medical equipment and disposables so that hospitals and clinics can continue to serve their communities. Items we will provide include gauze, gloves, catheters, portable ventilators, baby kits for new mothers, blood bags, and blood testing kits. Anera is partnering with the Palestine Red Crescent Society and coordinating its efforts with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization to assess and identify health and humanitarian needs.

### Food, Water, and NFIs

Anera will provide dignity/health kits to help the hundreds of Jenin families who have moved to mosques, schools, and community centers. We will also distribute water in areas where water infrastructure has been damaged, addressing the interruption of safe water access. And, where there is need, we'll deliver food vouchers for local grocers, to allow families to choose their own food while stimulating local economies affected by restrictions on movement.

### Infrastructure

In the upcoming days, Anera's staff will assess infrastructure needs – as the military attacks and armored vehicles inflicted a great deal of damage. Anera has a long history of [water and sanitation work](#) in Palestine, and we will be coordinating with other humanitarian actors to respond rapidly to help restore services as quickly as possible.

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<sup>27</sup> [Israeli warplanes attack targets in Gaza | WAFA](#)