

## **NAD-NSU/PLO**

# Israel's Aggression Against Occupied Palestine January 2024

#### **Overview**

The occupying Power has continued its genocidal aggression against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, targeting displaced civilians across the Strip. Khan Younis and its refugee camp faced intense bombardment, resulting in mass casualties, and hospitals like the Nasser Medical Complex and Al-Amal were besieged and attacked. And within 48 hours of the ruling by the International Court of Justice demanding Israel to take prompt and decisive action to address the horrendous living conditions in Gaza, over 373 Palestinians were killed, along with at least 643 others injured. In Gaza, the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) have continued to destroy Gaza's infrastructure and homes with residents inside, in addition to targeting and besieging partially functioning hospitals in Khan Younis. And in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, the IOF conducted extensive military operations and incursions accompanied by arrest campaigns and degrading treatment of detainees and their families. Also, extremist Israeli settlers were emboldened to carry out armed attacks on Palestinian civilians and their properties. Between 7 October 2023 and the end of January 2024, a total of 18 Palestinians were killed by the IOF in incidents involving settlers.

Key Facts & Figures	
	At least 5,140 Palestinians were killed [5,078 martyrs in Gaza and 62 martyrs in the West Bank (Ministry of Health)
İÑ	+ 10,300 Palestinians were injured, incl. +9,780 in Gaza (Ministry of Health)
	Since the aggression began, at least 2,000 massacres have been committed in Gaza. (Media Sources)
<b>©</b>	There were 312 shooting incidents in all West Bank governorates, along with 1,200 military incursions and 593 sudden military checkpoints
*	At least 108 Israeli settlers' terror attacks
J J	At least 1,236 Palestinians were arrested, incl. 30 women and 73 children <sup>1</sup> . One Palestinian prisoner Abd Al-Bahsh died inside "Majido" prison on 1 January 2024, the seventh martyr inside Israeli prisons since 7 October 2023. (Palestinian Prisoners Society & The Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs Commission)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The number of Palestinian prisoners reached 9,000 at the end of January 2024, incl. 200 children. The highest rate of arrests in the West Bank was recorded in occupied Jerusalem, where 309 detention cases were recorded, followed by Hebron (220), and Tulkarem (150). There is no information available on the number of Palestinian prisoners from Gaza and how many were killed. According to the Journalists' Syndicate: During the aggression, the IOF carried out a wide campaign of arrests against journalists, resulting in the detention of 56 journalists in Gaza and the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. So far, only 21 of them have been released. The majority remain in administrative detention without trial, with some still having unknown fates like the journalists detained in Gaza.

#### Israel's Genocidal Aggression Against the Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health's latest figures, approximately 4.43% of Gaza's population has been killed (70% of whom were children and women), injured, or gone missing between 7 October 2023 and 5 February 2024.
- Approximately 570,000 Gazans have been classified as having food insecurity and, therefore, are close to starving to death, as defined by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).



Approximately 70% of Gaza's civilian infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed. (According to the Ministry of Health: as of 30 December 2023, it is estimated that about 65,000 housing units across Gaza have been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable and +290,000 housing units have been damaged).



Nearly <u>85% of Gaza's population was forcibly displaced</u> (approx. 1.93 million Palestinians).



According to the Ministry of Health, nearly 1.4 million internally displaced people are registered at UNRWA facilities across Gaza, incl. ~1 million in 94 UNRWA shelters in the south. So far, <u>Israeli bombardment has damaged 146 UNRWA facilities</u>, resulting in the killing of 152 UNRWA personnel.



Attacks on the Education Sector: According to the Palestinian Ministry of Education, since the aggression began, 281 public schools have been bombed/ damaged, with 83 schools suffering severe damage and 7 schools totally damaged. More than 4,660 students and 239 education sector staff have been killed. More than 8,100 students and 756 staff members have been injured.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, 50 UNRWA schools were damaged. According to a recently published report, approximately 70% of schools in Gaza were destroyed or targeted by the IOF.



Attacks on the Health Sector: Since the aggression began, the IOF direct and indirect attacks on health facilities and their workers have resulted in the killing of 337 healthcare workers and medical specialists, the injury of more than 350, along with the detention of more than 99 others. More than 123 ambulances were destroyed and rendered inoperable, and 150 health facilities were partially or completely damaged, shutting down 30 hospitals and 53 health centers due to targeting and fuel shortages (Ministry of Health). Only 14 of 36 hospitals in Gaza are partially operational.



Attacks on Journalists: In January alone, 14 Palestinian journalists and media workers were killed in Gaza, 8 inside their homes and six in the field, with dozens more wounded. Israeli warplanes bombed journalists' homes, destroying 12 inhabited houses and killing dozens of journalists' families. Since the aggression began, 116 journalists and media workers have been killed in Gaza. More than 1,200 journalists have been displaced, hundreds of journalists' families' homes have been targeted, 73 media offices have been destroyed, and over 100 journalists have been injured.(Journalists' Syndicate)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> According to a report from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, from 7 October 2023 to 31 January 2024, 518 students and staff were killed, incl. 443 students and 75 staff, 98% of whom were in Gaza. Additionally, 23 higher education institutions were completely damaged, and 45 were partially damaged in Gaza. More than 88,000 students were deprived of their education in 19 higher education institutions in Gaza.

The following are examples of the occupying Power's deliberate targeting of hospitals and shelters and the crimes it committed against Palestinian civilians in Gaza in January 2024:

- On 30 January, the <u>IOF deliberately targeted displaced Palestinians</u>, including children, with airstrikes along the road between Khan Yunis and Rafah, resulting in dozens of casualties. At the end of January, the so-called "Kiryati" brigade withdrew from Khan Yunis, leaving behind a massive amount of destruction and bodies scattered around the area. <u>As described by one departing occupation soldier</u>: "I am leaving Khan Yunis now with mixed feelings. Thank God, we destroyed vast areas and killed tens of thousands of enemies."
- On 30 January, the <u>IOF stormed the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and Al-Amal hospital</u> at gunpoint, firing bullets and shells, and demanded that the displaced Palestinians evacuate the building. They demolished the outer wall of the building and fired live ammunition and tear gas canisters at everyone, including the association's staff. The shots also hit the association building and the hospital, causing several tents of the displaced to catch fire. Also on the same day, the hospital vicinity was targeted, killing one Palestinian.
- On 29 January, the <u>IOF targeted Bashar Hamadeh's car in the Tel al-Hawa area</u>, where he was accompanied by his wife, five children, and niece, resulting in the martyrdom of everyone except Layan (15) years old, and her cousin Hind Rajab (6) years old. The PRCS broadcasted <u>a recording of Layan pleading for help</u>; she was injured and surrounded by Israeli tanks. Her screams were heard as a barrage of bullets fired towards her, leading to her martyrdom. On <u>10 February</u>, Hind was found killed, despite the PRCS rescue efforts. After 12 days of losing contact with two PRCS paramedics, they were also reported killed.

#### Israel's Aggression Against the West Bank

- In January 2024: The Jenin Governorate recorded the highest number of martyrs with 15 Palestinians killed during several IOF incursions into Jenin city and its surrounding area. This was followed by the Tulkarem Governorate, which recorded 14 martyrs.
- According to the Palestinian Ministry of Education, since the aggression began and until the end of January 2024, 49 public schools were attacked, 43 students were killed, 287 students and 6 teachers were injured, and 89 students and more than 70 teachers were arrested.
- To this day, Israel withholds the bodies of 208 Palestinian martyrs, including 25 children, 18 prisoners, and two women, in addition to the bodies of 256 martyrs in the Cemeteries of Numbers. In January 2024, the occupation authority withheld the bodies of 20 martyrs from the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem. (National Campaign for the Recovery of Martyrs' Bodies)

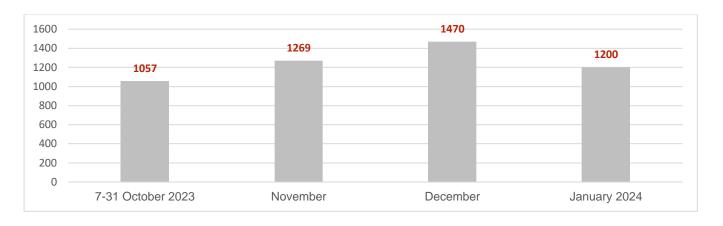


In January 2024: The occupation authorities advanced nearly 4,400 settlement units in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, in addition to approving several other colonial settlement projects. (Peace Now & Ir Amim)

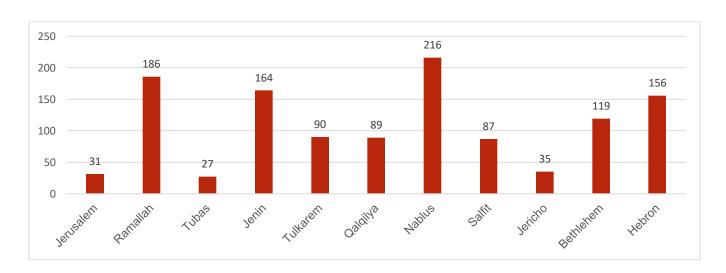


In January 2024: The IOF demolished 104 Palestinian structures, including 17 homes and five donor-funded structures, resulting in the displacement of 17 families (82 people, incl. 37 children), and otherwise affecting 561 families (15,327 individuals, incl. 8,907 children). (UNOCHA)

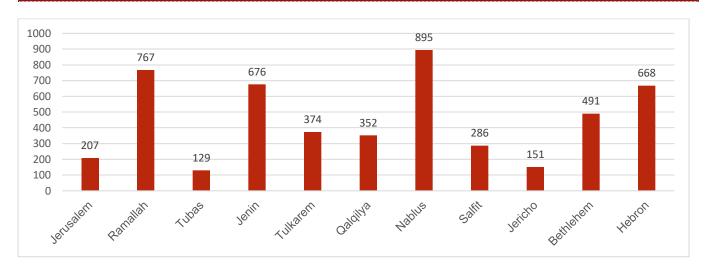
# Israeli Military Incursions by Month: 7 October 2023 - 31 January 2024



## Israeli Military Incursions by Governorate: January 2024



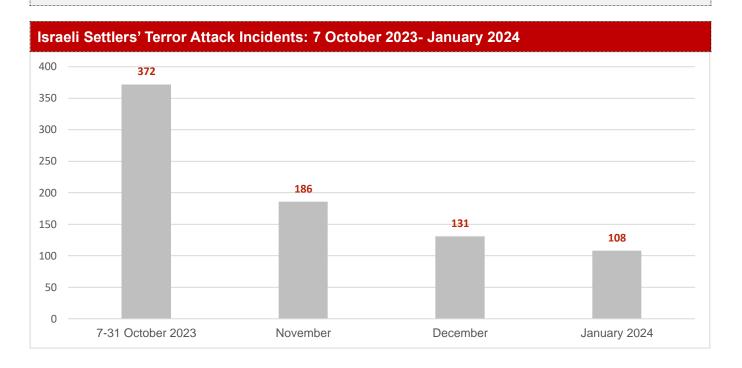
## Israeli Military Incursions by Governorate: 7 October 2023 – 31 January 2024



During this period, there were 4,996 military incursions, concentrated in Nablus, Ramallah, Jenin, and Hebron governorates.

#### In Focus: Israeli Settlers' Terror Attacks

In January 2024, with unconditional support from the occupation authority and forces, Israeli settlers escalated their terrorist attacks against defenseless Palestinian citizens and their properties. At least 108 attack incidents<sup>3</sup> were documented, which included physical assaults, presence at road junctions leading to Palestinian villages and towns, stone-throwing at passing vehicles, storming Palestinian villages and towns, setting up caravans on private Palestinian land as part of their scheme to seize it, constructing settlement roads, plowing and fencing private Palestinian lands, cutting down trees, shooting at farmers on their agricultural lands, setting fire to Palestinian properties, detaining Palestinian civilians, seizing caves in mountainous areas, cattle theft, and grazing livestock on agricultural lands owned by Palestinians. The highest numbers of attacks were recorded consecutively in the governorates of Hebron, Nablus, Bethlehem, and Ramallah.



#### Here are a few examples:

- On 31 January in Nablus Governorate, a group of settlers entered Palestinian agricultural lands in the village of Deir Sharaf, located opposite the "Shafi Shomron" settlement, and uprooted 450 olive plants and almond trees planted on an area of 10 dunums owned by Ghazi Antri.
- On 31 January in Jericho and Al-Aghwar Governorate, an Israeli settler, while driving his vehicle on the Al-Mua'rajat Road, deliberately ran over a herd of sheep owned by Salimat Malihat, killing many of them and stealing others.
- On 23 January in Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, settlers set fire to a vehicle sales showroom in Beitin village, burning 14 vehicles.
- On January 15 in Bethlehem Governorate, settlers seized about 10 caves in the wild areas of the towns of Tuqu and Za'tara and the villages of Rashayda, Kaysan, and Beit Ta'mar. Upon forcing the Palestinian owners to leave, they carried out restoration work, placing furniture and their personal belongings, in order to transform them into a settlement tourist area.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Multiple attacks may occur in the same incident

## In Focus: Summary of Israeli Violations in occupied Jerusalem<sup>4</sup>

- There has been a continued spate of attacks by extremist Israeli settlers against Palestinians while both the
  Israeli police and the Israeli government deliberately covered up their racist criminal activities. During the
  month, Israeli extremist settlers perpetrated nine attacks, including three physical assaults.
- Five Palestinians, including a child under four, were killed, and 18 others were injured by live and rubber-coated steel bullets and severe beatings. Gas inhalation suffocation cases were also documented.
- The Israeli occupation authorities have imprisoned 39 Jerusalemite prisoners, including 31 prisoners who were placed under administrative detention (without specifying clear charges), and 13 house arrest orders, including four against children and one against a woman.
- According to UNOCHA, the IOF demolished 20 structures, including seven homes, resulting in the displacement of eight families (33 individuals).
- The occupation authorities advanced at least 1,260 settlement units in several existing settlements in
   Jerusalem and one new settlement neighborhood called "Givat Sheked." In addition, they approved several other colonial settlement projects, including a garbage dump in a densely populated Palestinian area.
- In advance of judicial proceedings in Jerusalem courts, Israel's Jerusalem municipality declared approval for the settlement plan known as "Silicon Valley." The plan intends to construct buildings ranging from 8-14 stories on the ruins of commercial and industrial shops in the Jerusalem industrial area in the heart of the Palestinian neighborhood Wadi Al-Joz. Through this plan, the municipality aims to transform Palestinian neighborhoods near the Old City walls and the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound into a technological, industrial, and commercial center, as well as a settlement attraction and investment area.
- Authorized and protected by the occupation authorities, and in a blatant violation of the sanctity of the AlAqsa Mosque Compound, 3,405 extremist Israeli settlers (performing Talmudic prayers) and 1,218 "tourists"
  stormed into the compound during the month. The occupation authorities have also issued six orders to
  remove Palestinian Muslim worshippers from the compound.
- Following a series of pursuits, the occupation authorities convicted Sheikh Ekrima Sabri of "inciting terrorism." However, his trial was postponed at his lawyer's request.
- The so-called Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, extremist Aryeh King, made inflammatory remarks against Jerusalemites, stating, "We must realize that the Arabs of Jerusalem (...) are like the Arabs of Gaza, made up of extreme Islamists, a Christian minority, a silent majority that quietly supports terrorism and a Muslim minority that opposes it." It is worth mentioning that King resides in a settlement in the heart of the Ras Al-Amud neighborhood in Jerusalem and roams the city streets with his weapon.
- The so-called "Israeli Land Authority" evicted UNRWA from one of its properties in Qalandia, north of Jerusalem, covering an area of 85 dunams. UNRWA was required to pay a retroactive "usage fee" of 17 million shekels. The property was seized as a result of incitement and an official request from Aryeh King, who claimed that the land belonged to Israel and not to UNRWA. It is important to note that the mentioned land was registered in the name of the Jordanian government before 1967. In 1953, UNRWA established a school and training center known as Qalandia Vocational Training Center.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Main source, unless otherwise indicated, the Public Relations and Media Unit of the Jerusalem Governorate.