

Overview

During the month, Israel, the occupying Power, continued its genocidal aggression against the Gaza Strip by committing more crimes against defenseless civilians, destroying homes over the residents' heads, and targeting displaced people in shelter centers and displacement tents, as well as targeting them directly while they awaited aid convoys. Additionally, the Israeli occupying forces (IOF) conducted arbitrary arrests and torture against children, women, and men, and threats and intimidation were used against them if they refused to cooperate during their investigation; sexual assault of Palestinian women was one of the most obscene aspects of these violations. The IOF also continued to besiege and target the remaining hospitals in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip, including Al-Amal Hospital, Nasser Medical Complex, the European Hospital, and everything that moves in their vicinity. In parallel to its genocidal aggression on the Gaza Strip, the occupying Power escalated its aggression against the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, where the IOF fired live bullets at Palestinians, arrested many young men and children, and abused them and their families, in addition to armed settler gangs carrying out several terrorist attacks against Palestinian civilians and their properties.

Key Facts & Figures	
Ê	At least 3,335 Palestinians were killed [3,300 martyrs in Gaza and 35 martyrs in the West Bank. (Ministry of Health)
Š ů	+ 5,700 Palestinians were injured, incl. +4,450 in Gaza. (Ministry of Health)
	Since the aggression began, at least 2,500 massacres have been committed in Gaza. (<u>Media Sources</u>)
	There were 234 shooting incidents in all West Bank governorates, along with 1,098 military raids and 432 sudden military checkpoints
Å -*	At least 144 Israeli settlers' terror attacks
ĊЪ	At least 875 Palestinians were arrested, incl. 22 women and 68 children ¹ . A total of six prisoners and detainees died in occupation prisons and detention centers as a result of torture and medical crimes: Mohammad Al-Sabbar , the disabled prisoner Khaled Al-Shawish, the detainee Izz Al-Din Al-Banna from Gaza, Ahmed Rizq Qadeeh from Gaza, cancer-suffering prisoner Assef Al-Rifai from Kufr Ein, the detained and wounded martyr Mohammad Abu Sneina, who was admitted to Hadassah Hospital, This brings the total number of captive martyrs to 13 since 7 October 2023. (Palestinian Prisoners Society & The Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs Commission)

¹ The number of Palestinian prisoners reached 9,100 at the end of February 2024, incl. 200 children. The highest rate of arrests in the West Bank was recorded in occupied Jerusalem, where 251 detention cases were recorded, followed by Hebron (155), and Tulkarem (150). There is no information available on the number of Palestinian prisoners from Gaza and how many were killed.

Israel's Genocidal Aggression Against the Gaza Strip

- According to the Ministry of Health's latest figures, approximately 4.76% of Gaza's population has been killed (70% of whom were children and women), injured, or gone missing between 7 October 2023 and end of February 2024.
- A quarter of Gaza's population at least 576,000 people is on the verge of famine, according to the UN.



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

Approximately <u>70% of Gaza's civilian infrastructure has been damaged or</u> <u>destroyed</u>. (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).

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 155</u> <u>UNRWA facilities, resulting in the killing of 160 UNRWA personnel, in addition to the killing of at least 404 displaced persons in its shelters, and the injury of at least 1,385 people.</u>

Attacks on the Education Sector: According to the Palestinian Ministry of Education, since the aggression began, 286 public schools have been bombed/ damaged, with 111 schools suffering severe damage and more than 40 schools totally damaged, in addition to the damage of 65 UNRWA schools. More than 5,379 students and 255 education sector staff have been killed. More than 8,888 students and 891 staff members have been injured.² It is estimated that as of the end of January 2024, <u>386 of Gaza's school buildings have suffered damages, which represents more than 78% of all Gaza schools</u>.

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 346 healthcare workers and medical specialists, the injury of more than 400, along with the detention of more than 269 others. More than 126 ambulances were destroyed and rendered inoperable, and 155 health facilities were partially or completely damaged, shutting down 32 hospitals and 53 health centers due to targeting and fuel shortages (Ministry of Health). <u>As of</u> <u>February 22, there were 12 hospitals partially operating in the Gaza Strip, in</u> <u>addition to 3 partially operational field hospitals.</u>

Attacks on Journalists: In February, the IOF committed 60 violations against Palestinian journalists, including the killing of 10 journalists and media personnel in Gaza, the injuring of 7 others as a result of bombing or shooting live bullets at them, and 10 cases of detention of press crew. Since the aggression began, the IOF killed 126 Palestinian journalists and media personnel as a result of the deliberate Israeli bombing of their homes, offices, or while working in the field in Gaza. A total of 1,500 journalists were displaced to hospitals and makeshift shelters as a result of the intense bombing. The homes of hundreds of journalists' families and the headquarters of 73 media and press organizations were destroyed. (Journalists' Syndicate)

² According to a report from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, from 7 October 2023 to 25 February 2024, 518 students and staff were killed, incl. 444 students and 75 staff members, 98% of whom were in Gaza. Additionally, 107 higher education institutions were damaged, including 25 completely damaged and 59 partially damaged in Gaza. More than 88,000 students were deprived of their education.

Examples of the occupying Power deliberately targeting Palestinian hospitals and civilians awaiting aid trucks in Gaza during February 2024 include the following:

- The "Flour Massacre" on Al-Rashid Street: at dawn on 29 February, the IOF stationed on the coastal road Harun al-Rashid in the Sheikh Ajlin area, west of Gaza City, fired their tanks directly at a gathering of hundreds of Palestinians from the northern Gaza Strip, specifically from Gaza City, Jabalia, and Beit Hanoun, while they were waiting for aid trucks, which usually include flour. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 104 Palestinians were killed, and more than 750 were injured. The occupation tanks also ran over a large number of Palestinians while they were alive, in addition to the bodies of the martyrs thrown in the street, and thus, the aid trucks turned into trucks carrying the bodies of hundreds of martyrs and the wounded. Despite widespread international condemnation, the occupation authorities denied responsibility for the flour massacre, claiming that they had been killed in a "stampede." In his comment on the massacre, Colombian President Gustavo Petro said: "This is called genocide and is reminiscent of the Holocaust even if the world powers do not like to recognize it. The world must block Netanyahu. Colombia suspends all purchases of weapons from Israel."
- Continuing the siege of Al-Amal Hospital and storming it: On 10 February, the <u>IOF stormed Al-Amal Hospital</u> affiliated with the Palestinian Red Crescent in Khan Yunis, stole all the keys to the ambulances and administrative vehicles, and locked the steering wheel to prevent the crew from operating the vehicles in light of the continued siege and targeting of the hospital since last January. According to the Executive Director of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in the Gaza Strip, Dr. Bashar Murad, the IOF stormed the hospital, arrested the medical staff, including surgical and anesthesia consultants, and prevented the entry of oxygen. Israeli warplanes also opened fire on every moving person and ambulance, killing approximately 43 displaced persons and medical personnel.

Israel's Aggression Against the West Bank

- In February 2024: the IOF killed 35 Palestinians and injured at least 300 others in the West Bank. In particular, the occupation forces attacked the governorates of Jerusalem, Nablus, and Tulkarm, resulting in the martyrdom of 18 Palestinians. (Ministry of Health)
- Since the aggression began and until 26 February 2024, 38 public schools were attacked, 37 students were killed, 282 students and 5 teachers were injured, and 85 students and more than 69 teachers were arrested. (Ministry of Education)
- To this day, Israel withholds the bodies of 225 Palestinian martyrs, including 28 children, 23 prisoners, and one women, in addition to the bodies of 256 martyrs in the Cemeteries of Numbers. In February 2024, the occupation authority withheld the bodies of 15 martyrs from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. (National Campaign for the Recovery of Martyrs' Bodies)

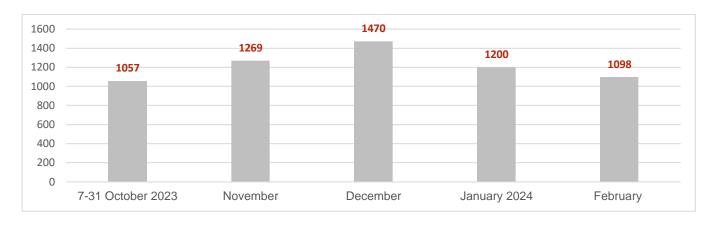


In February 2024: The occupation authorities advanced nearly 3,140 settlement units in the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, in addition to approving several other colonial settlement projects. Since 7 October, the occupation authorities have pushed forward 17 structural plans for the benefit of Jewish settlers in occupied Jerusalem, with a size of 8,434 settlement units. (Peace Now & Ir Amim)

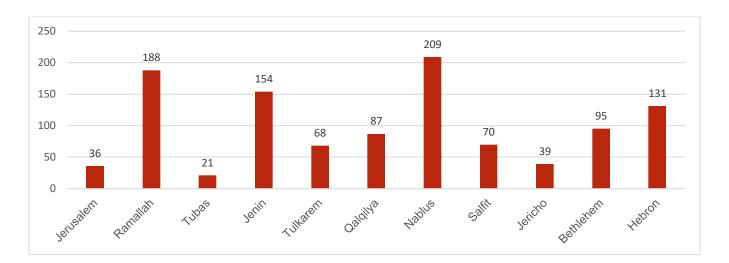


In February 2024: The IOF demolished 50 Palestinian structures, including 25 homes, resulting in the displacement of 24 families (90 people, incl. 35 children), and otherwise affecting 28 families (117 individuals, incl. 30 children). (UNOCHA)

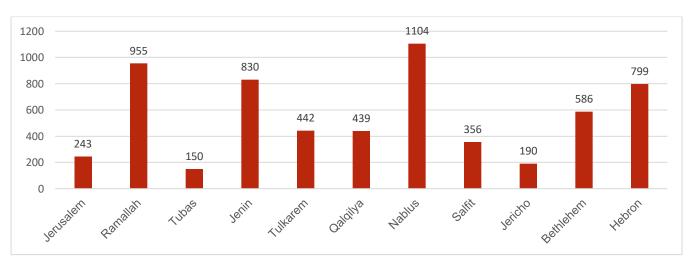




Israeli Military Raids by Governorate: February 2024



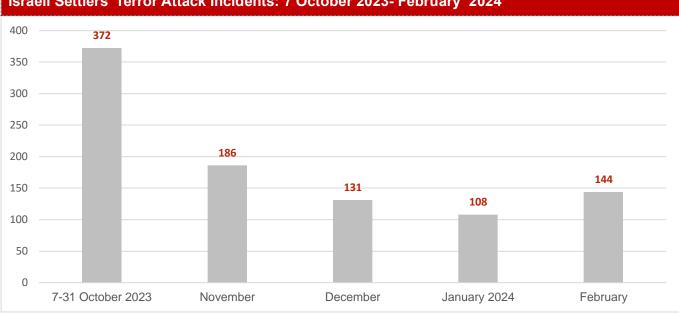
Israeli Military Raids by Governorate: 7 October 2023 – February 2024



During this period, there were 6,094 military raids, concentrated in Nablus, Ramallah, Jenin, and Hebron governorates.

In Focus: Israeli Settlers' Terror Attacks

In February 2024, with unconditional support from the occupation authority and forces, Israeli settlers continued their terrorist attacks against defenseless Palestinian citizens and their properties. At least 144 attack incidents³ were documented, which included deliberate vehicular attacks, physical assaults, road blockades leading to Palestinian areas with stone-throwing at passing vehicles, raiding Palestinian villages and towns, installation of lighting poles on private Palestinian lands, destruction of fruit trees and crops, expansion of colonial settlement installations (outposts) through excavation and bulldozing, gunfire at civilians, arson targeting their property, and physical assaults, including against children. The attacks were concentrated in Nablus, Hebron, Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Salfit governorates. According to the Anti Wall and Settlement Commission, settlers targeted Palestinian trees and crops in 17 separate incidents, resulting in the uprooting, damage, sabotage, poisoning, and burning of a total of 1,002 trees, including 692 olive trees. The majority of these attacks occurred in Hebron Governorate (70 trees damaged or uprooted), followed by Nablus Governorate (462 trees affected), Bethlehem Governorate (420 trees damaged or uprooted), and Salfit Governorate (50 trees affected).



Israeli Settlers' Terror Attack Incidents: 7 October 2023- February 2024

Here are a few examples:

- On 29 February in Nablus Governorate: a settler, while driving his vehicle on the main road of Nablus -Ramallah, near the village of Al-Lubban Al-Sharqiya, ran over Mahdi Samir Mahmoud Al-Azza, causing him to sustain bruises that required treatment at Salfit hospital.
- On 16 February in the Bethlehem Governorate: a group of armed settlers from the "Ma'ale Amos" settlement burned a house, a vehicle, and two barracks used to raise sheep and store supplies owned by Ibrahim Aweida Sawarka in the wilderness area of Kisan village.
- On 14 February in the Hebron Governorate: a group of settlers in the village of Susya, located southeast of the town of Yatta, demolished two pergolas, a barn for raising sheep, and retaining walls, in addition to cutting the branches of 10 grape trees owned by Khader Al-Nawajaa.
- On 3 February in the Jerusalem Governorate: a group of extremist settlers in the Old City of occupied Jerusalem assaulted the General Superior of the Benedictine Monks in the Holy Land, Father Nicodemus Schnabel from Germany, and spat on and insulted him.
- On 2 February on Ramallah-Nablus Road: a settler, while driving a vehicle near the Oyoun al-Haramiya junction, ran over Ahmed Jamil Abu Khalil, a resident of the town of Atil in Tulkarm Governorate, causing him to sustain wounds and bruises, so he was transferred to Ramallah's public hospital.

³ Multiple attacks may occur in the same incident

 On 1 February in Bethlehem Governorate: a group of settlers entered the Al-Hanjaliyah Al-Qaseer area, east of the village of Battir, bulldozed land covering about five dunams, and uprooted 300 grape trees owned by Ibrahim Khalil Abu Nimah.

In Focus: Summary of Israeli Violations in Occupied Jerusalem During February 2024⁴

- Eight Palestinians, including two children, were killed, and all their bodies were withheld. Until the end of February 2024, the occupation authorities have continue to withhold the bodies of 40 martyrs from Jerusalem. During the month, 12 injuries were recorded as a result of live bullets, rubber-coated metal bullets, and severe beatings.
- Israeli extremist settlers perpetrated 14 attacks against Palestinians in Jerusalem.
- So far in 2024, 3,273 settlers and 2,550 "tourists" stormed into Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound. On 8 February, 15,000 Palestinian worshipers commemorated the Isra and Mi'raj in Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound despite the closures, barriers, and obstacles. The occupation authority stormed into the Compound and deployed their troops in its squares.
- The occupation continues to impose on the Governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Ghaith, a decision of open house arrest in his home since 4 August 2022 without specifying a period for the decision. During February, the occupation authorities summoned the secretary of the Fatah movement in Jerusalem, Shadi Mutawer, for investigation at the Al-Mascobiyya Investigation Center and handed him a decision prohibiting entry into the West Bank. Also, during the month, the so-called legal advisor in the occupation government approved a request to withdraw the residency permit (blue ID) from the Jerusalemite prisoner Majid al-Jubeh, noting that the occupation authorities renewed his administrative detention for a period of 4 months.
- During the month, the occupation authorities arrested 151 Palestinians in all areas of Jerusalem Governorate, incl. ten children and nine women. The occupation courts impose unfair decisions against the detainees, ranging from issuing prison sentences (25) and imposing house arrests (2) in addition to (13) entry ban decisions⁵, incl. 11 orders banning entry to Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound, and heavy financial fines. A large number of detainees have been held for long months and maybe even years without clear charges being brought against them, including against those whom travel ban decisions have been issued.
- The Israeli occupation authorities have imprisoned 25 Jerusalemite prisoners, including 21 prisoners who were placed under administrative detention (without specifying clear charges). One of the highest sentences during February was the 32-month sentence issued against prisoner Jamal Khaled Al-Batal.
- According to UNOCHA, the IOF demolished 21 structures, including 14 homes, resulting in the displacement of 11 families (55 individuals, incl. 13 children).

⁴ Main source, unless otherwise indicated, the Public Relations and Media Unit of the Jerusalem Governorate. ⁵ Orders banning/ restricting Palestinians' right to live in their home, neighborhood, or city for a certain period of time or until further notice.