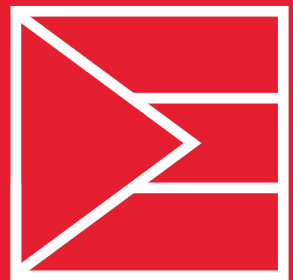


Israel's Attacks on Jenin in the Occupied West Bank

February 2025



London | Washington



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At a Glance

From 7 October 2023 to 31 December 2024

216

Palestinians were killed by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) in Jenin

760

Palestinians were injured by the IOF in Jenin

283

structures were demolished by the IOF¹

Jenin Refugee Camp has been besieged for over

50 days

2,000

families have been displaced from Jenin³

Both of Jenin's **hospitals** have been attacked and besieged⁴

In January 2025 alone

The IOF has killed over

38

Palestinians in Jenin, including 2-year-old baby Laila al-Khatib¹²⁷

The IOF has arrested more than

60

Palestinians⁵

“What’s happening in Jenin is a battle between right and wrong. Israel and the US made a decision with the Palestinian Authority to end the resistance in the northern West Bank. They gathered their armies and weapons to end patriotism and resistance inside Jenin Camp. But the Palestinian Authority doesn’t know that we get our strength from God, they don’t know that we will go to the end, until victory or death, God willing.”

Jenin Brigades Fighter⁶



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Overview of Jenin



© Jaafar Ashtiyeh - AFP - Getty Images

01

Overview of Jenin

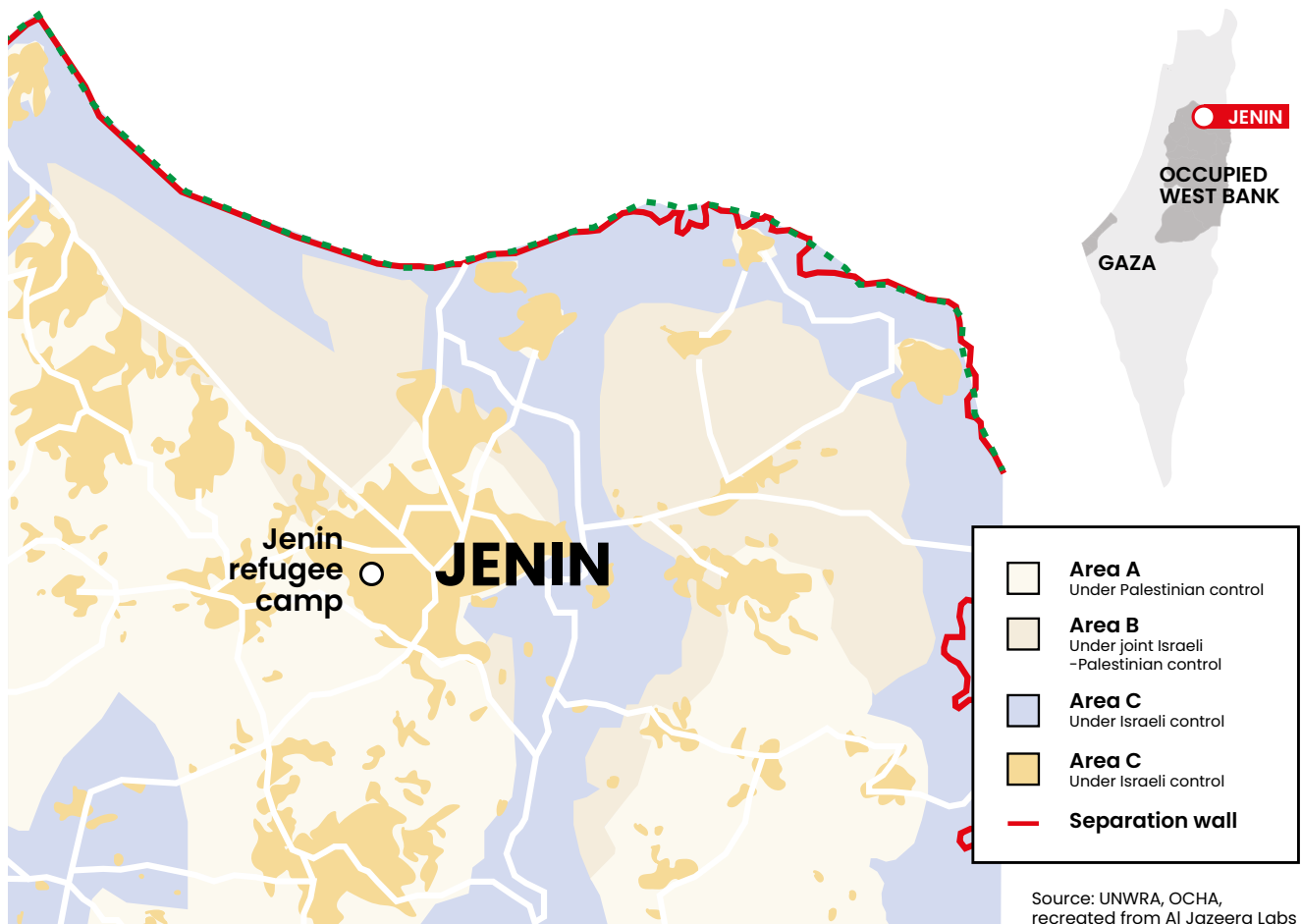
Jenin originated in the 12th century BC as a small agricultural town, and expanded in size during Ottoman rule. Jenin used to be connected by road to the cities of Nazareth and Haifa, but today both roads are blocked by Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) checkpoints.⁷

Jenin also used to have its own airfield, established in 1917, and train station but these were forced to close after the Nakba (catastrophe) in 1948.⁸

In 1953, UNWRA established Jenin Refugee Camp to house the thousands of Palestinians displaced from northern Palestine during the Nakba, after the original camp was destroyed by a snowstorm.⁹

Many of the Palestinians living in Jenin Refugee Camp are originally from Haifa, Akka, and Jaffa.¹⁰

Jenin Refugee Camp is located in the west of Jenin city, and is less than half a square kilometre in size.¹¹ By 2023, the camp's population had grown to around 25,000 Palestinians.¹²



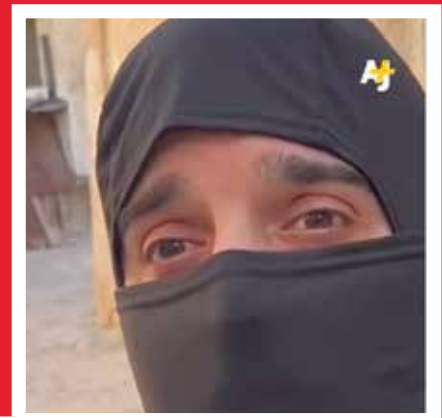
Jenin has been occupied by the IOF since the 1967 Naksa.¹³

The intensification of Zionist apartheid over the occupied West Bank in recent years has caused rising

poverty and unemployment rates in Jenin Refugee Camp due to the construction of the Apartheid Wall, implementation of the apartheid permit system, and increase in occupation checkpoints around Jenin and other areas of the occupied West Bank.¹⁴

“There’s no way Israel will leave us with any choice except that of armed resistance. It won’t put forth a political solution, or a truce, or a peace deal for Palestinians. It’s impossible.”

Abu Al Ezz
Jenin Brigades Fighter.¹⁵



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Historical Palestinian Resistance in Jenin



© AP - Mohammed Ballas

02

Historical Palestinian Resistance in Jenin

Jenin and its Refugee Camp have long been the centre of Palestinian resistance in the occupied West Bank, predating the existence of the Zionist entity.¹⁶

1936-1939

Resistance to the British Occupation of Palestine

During the Palestinian revolution against the British from 1936 to 1939, Jenin became a hub for Palestinian resistance against British colonial occupation.¹⁷

In August 1938, the British Assistance District Commissioner was assassinated by the Palestinian resistance in Jenin.¹⁸ After this, British occupying forces invaded the town, ordering the inhabitants to leave and destroying one quarter of the town as a form of collective punishment.¹⁹

1948

Resistance to the Nakba

Palestinian resistance fighters in Jenin prevented Zionist militias from occupying Jenin and advancing further into the occupied West Bank.²⁰

1987-1993

Resistance in the First Intifada

During the First Intifada, the IOF regularly raided Jenin Refugee Camp.²¹

In May 1989, Mohammad Jibrin was killed after being beaten by IOF soldiers in Jenin for participating in the Intifada.²²

Historical Palestinian Resistance in Jenin continued...

2002

Resistance in the Second Intifada

Jenin was a centre of the Second Intifada, with about 200 members of the armed resistance defending the city.²³ Jenin launched 31 resistance operations during the Second Intifada, the highest number of resistance operations against the IOF of any West Bank city during the Second Intifada, resulting in the death of 124 IOF soldiers.²⁴

During the Second Intifada, Jenin was occupied by the IOF for over 10 days, in what is known as the Jenin massacre.²⁵ The IOF killed at least 52 Palestinians, destroyed over 400 houses, damaging hundreds more, and displacing over a quarter of the camp's population.²⁶

Among those murdered by the IOF was Kamal Zghair, a 57-year-old disabled Palestinian man who was shot and run over by an IOF tank despite having attached a white flag to his wheelchair, and Faris Zaiban, a 14-year-old Palestinian boy who was purchasing groceries after the IOF curfew was lifted.²⁷

The IOF opened fire on medical personnel – who were clearly displaying the red crescent symbol – whilst they tried to reach the wounded, and as a direct result, killed nurse Farwa Jammal.²⁸ An IOF sniper also shot dead a British UNWRA worker in Jenin.²⁹

The IOF used Palestinian children from Jenin as human shields, with one IOF soldier resting his gun on a 14-year-old boy's shoulder whilst he shot at Palestinians.³⁰

Even after the IOF withdrew from Jenin, they refused the entry of humanitarian and rescue workers and journalists.³¹

2021

Emergence of Jenin Brigades

In May 2021, following the Palestinian Unity uprising, the Jenin Brigades was formed, growing in numbers throughout the following year.³²

2022

IOF Raids of Jenin Camp and Assassination of Shireen Abu Akleh

IOF snipers assassinated veteran Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh whilst she was reporting on IOF raids in Jenin Refugee Camp.³³

“What the [Palestinian Authority] PA is doing inside Jenin Camp is not at all different from Israeli raids. The systematic targeting of civilians, the cutting of water and electricity, and targeting all forms of life inside this camp. We have seen vicious attacks by Israeli forces since 7 October [2023]. But our own kin, the PA, did what the Israeli occupation didn’t do. They raided hospitals, they cut electricity for two weeks, they cut the water, they blocked food, and targeted all forms of civilian life to end the resistance and pressure people of Jenin Camp to cast us out.”

Jenin Brigades Fighter³⁴



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Who are the Jenin Brigades?



© Reuters - Raneen Sawafta

Who are the Jenin Brigades?

The Jenin Brigades is an umbrella group of armed resistance groups of different ideological orientations and factions, formed to defend Jenin from attacks by the IOF, armed settlers, and occupation collaborators such as the Palestinian Authority (PA).³⁵

Some of the factions included within the Jenin Brigades are Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Islamic Jihad's al-Quds Brigades, and Hamas's Qassam Brigades.³⁶

Although the Jenin Brigades have avoided direct confrontation with the PA where possible, their fighters have been directly targeted by the PA in collaboration with the IOF.³⁷

The establishment of the Jenin Brigades, alongside the Lion's Den in Nablus, marked a shift in the Palestinian resistance from a more factionalised system into a united front; from non-violent resistance to armed resistance; and to a more youth-led movement.³⁸

This is partially the result of the failure of Fatah to resist the occupation, their collaboration and deradicalisation through the PA, and the alienation of younger Palestinians by the PA.³⁹

The strength of the Jenin Brigades has led Palestinian resistance fighters to join the group from other areas of the Occupied West Bank outside Jenin.⁴⁰

The Jenin Brigades have come under heightened attack by the IOF and PA since 7 October 2023, due to the global focus on Gaza which allows occupation attacks in the Occupied West Bank to gain less coverage and international condemnation.⁴¹

The Jenin Brigades remain the primary defenders of Jenin from ongoing IOF attacks.⁴²

“People stay at home because they [The Palestinian Authority forces] are targeting civilians. Yesterday, a father and his son were martyred on the roof of their house, it seems that they were fixing the water tank. And his daughter was paralysed. What is happening is random shooting. People are afraid to go out into the streets because of the indiscriminate shooting. If they target only the resistance and only the militants, this will not affect the path we know we [the Jenin Brigades] are on, but we are against them targeting civilians, and targeting people in the streets. All this time they have been arresting people who have nothing to do with what is happening. This is collective punishment.”

Al-Qassam Brigades fighter
in Jenin.⁴³



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The Palestinian Authority's Attacks on Jenin



The Palestinian Authority's Attacks on Jenin

In full collaboration with the occupation, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has consistently arrested and killed Palestinians in Jenin, particularly political activists and members of the Jenin Brigades, as well as providing full 'security coordination' for the IOF.⁴⁴

This 'security coordination' includes providing the IOF with the location of Palestinian resistance fighters in Jenin, allowing the IOF to carry out assassinations of resistance members, and complete access to the camp to massacre and injure its residents and destroy homes.⁴⁵

In December 2024, the PA launched its largest assault on Jenin to date.⁴⁶

The PA's most recent attack on Jenin, its refugee camp, and the Jenin Brigades resistance fighters began after PA forces shot dead 19-year-old Palestinian youth Rahbi Shalabi, despite footage clearly showing him raising his arms to demonstrate to PA forces that he was unarmed and not a threat.⁴⁷

PA forces then killed 13-year-old Palestinian child Mohammad al-Amer.⁵⁴

After news of Rahbi and Mohammad's killing spread, residents of Jenin began to denounce the PA's killing, reject the PA's authority over Jenin, and demonstrate their opposition to its complicity in occupation crimes.⁴⁸

One of the PA's security forces in Jenin, Mustafa al-Qanari, resigned from the PA over their murder of Mohammed, and the PA's imprisonment of all his children in Jericho Prison.⁴⁹ He stated, "Every household in this camp is targeted by the occupation or the Palestinian Authority, completing each other's roles. They violated our dignity [...] These security forces, truthfully, serve the occupation".⁵⁰

In response, the PA besieged Jenin Camp for over 50 days and attacked resistance fighters defending Jenin.⁵¹ The PA killed Jenin Brigades Commander Yazid Ja'ayesh, and stormed Ibn Sina Hospital to withhold his body and prevent widespread attendance of his funeral.⁵² He had previously been wounded by IOF gunshots, been arrested by the IOF several times, and spent four years in Israeli torture chambers.⁵³

On 15 December 2024, women of Jenin Refugee Camp confronted the PA forces that raided the camp to pursue the resistance fighters, preventing the vehicles from moving quickly through the streets.⁵⁵

During the attacks, the PA also targeted and injured civilians in the camp, including children, and intentionally targeted journalists wearing clear press identification.⁵⁶

On 23 December 2025, a PA sniper killed another Palestinian child, 16-year-old Majd Zeidan.⁵⁷

On 28 December 2024, PA forces assassinated Palestinian journalist Shatha al-Sabbagh with a direct gunshot to the head, as she was leaving her home with children from her family.⁵⁸ Before her assassination, she had documented members of the PA security forces vandalising posters of Jenin Refugee Camp's martyrs, including posters of Youssef Shreim and Nidal Khazem.⁵⁹

The same day, PA agents also forced two Palestinian detainees to repeat 'President Abu Mazen is God' or be beaten, and placed another detainee in a rubbish bin for criticising the PA's crackdown on Jenin Refugee Camp.⁶⁰

Copying Israeli tactics, PA forces stormed both of Jenin's hospitals – Jenin Government Hospital and Ibn Sina Hospital – searched ambulances, and arrested medical personnel.⁶¹

The Palestinian Authority's Attacks on Jenin continued...

Also on 28 December 2024, PA forces arrested Palestinian paramedics Anas Al-Haj Saleh and Salah Zamiro, who were subjected to beatings, strip searches, and verbal insults.⁶² The paramedics had been on their way to deliver medicine to an elderly woman in the camp, but their journey was prevented by PA forces.⁶³

On 31 December 2024, a PA special forces unit arrested the Head of the Jenin Governmental Hospital's Emergency Department, Dr. Qassem Bani Gharra, during his shift.⁶⁴

On 3 January 2025, PA forces assassinated the Palestinian boy Qasm Jalkamoussi and his father on the roof of their home.⁶⁵

By 9 January 2025, the PA had arrested more than 247 resistance fighters from Jenin Refugee Camp.⁶⁶

By the end of January 2025, PA forces had destroyed 50 houses in Jenin Refugee Camp.¹⁰⁴

“When the Israeli forces carried out an incursion, it was a very difficult situation, especially with the strikes, shelling, martyrs laying in the streets and many wounded. This is all compounded by the fact that we have been exhausted and suffering for 45 days.”

Mohammad Salah

resident of Jenin refugee camp.⁶⁷



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The IOF's Attacks on Jenin



© Majdi Mohammed - AP Photo

05

The IOF's Attacks on Jenin

IOF attacks on Jenin have intensified significantly since July 2023.⁶⁸

July 2023

The IOF launched its then-largest attack on Jenin in over 20 years,⁶⁹ massacring 13 Palestinians and injuring 140 in just 48 hours.⁷⁰ The IOF also significantly damaged the UNRWA Health Centre in Jenin Refugee Camp and caused minor damage to four UNRWA schools in the camp.⁷¹

October 2023

On 22 October, the IOF began using airstrikes in Jenin, the first use of warplanes in the occupied West Bank.⁷² An IOF airstrike on a mosque in Jenin killed two Palestinians.⁷³

On 30 October, the IOF killed another two Palestinians in Jenin.⁷⁴

November 2023

On 17 November, IOF attacks killed five Palestinians.⁷⁵

On 29 November, the IOF reported that it had killed 'two high-ranking terrorists'.⁷⁶ In reality, the IOF murdered two Palestinian children, 14-year-old Basel Abu Al-Wafa and 8-year-old Adam Al-Ghoul.⁷⁷

December 2023

On 12 December, the IOF killed six Palestinians in Jenin.⁷⁸

On 14 December, the IOF killed 12 Palestinians and took 60 Palestinians hostage, including a 17-year-old child inside Khalil Suleiman hospital.⁷⁹

January 2024

On 9 January, the IOF blocked all entrances into Jenin, and destroyed streets, electric poles, water lines, and a monument to Shireen Abu Akleh.⁸⁰

On 13 January, the IOF surrounded Jenin's Al Amal Hospital,⁸¹ and on 28 January they destroyed roundabouts in Jenin.⁸²

On 30 January, IOF commandos dressed in medical uniforms infiltrated Jenin's Ibn Sina hospital and assassinated three Palestinian men who were receiving medical treatment.⁸³

February 2024

On 20 February, an IOF airstrike killed three Palestinians in Jenin Refugee Camp, and the IOF killed another Palestinian the following day.⁸⁴

On 22 February, an IOF drone strike killed three Palestinians.⁸⁵

March 2024

On 5 March, IOF forces shot dead Palestinian teenager Nour Yassin.⁸⁶

On 16 March, IOF forces opened fire on Palestinians waiting outside Jenin Government Hospital, killing two and injuring several others.⁸⁷

On 21 March, an IOF airstrike killed three Palestinians.⁸⁸

On 27 March, IOF drone strikes killed four Palestinians, and a Palestinian teenager, Ayman Azouqa, was shot dead by the IOF in Jenin city.⁸⁹

The IOF's Attacks on Jenin continued...

April 2024

On 27 April, the IOF shot dead two Palestinian youths and prevented ambulances from recovering their bodies.⁹⁰

May 2024

On 21 May, IOF attacks killed seven Palestinians, including a doctor and a teenager, and medics were prevented from transporting the wounded.⁹¹

Two of those murdered were Palestinian children returning home from school, who were shot by IOF snipers.⁹²

June 2024

On 6 June, IOF forces killed at least three Palestinians and injured 15 others.⁹³

July 2024

IOF attacks killed over seven Palestinians in Jenin, including a teenager.⁹⁴

August 2024

IOF attacks killed at least three Palestinians, ordered the evacuation of one of Jenin's hospitals, blew up Palestinians' homes in Jenin's al-Jabriyat neighbourhood, and forced all shops to close.⁹⁵

IOF bulldozers also destroyed 70 percent of roads in Jenin, and besieged areas of Jenin, preventing the entry of food and water.⁹⁶

September 2024

IOF bulldozers left 80 percent of Palestinians in Jenin without water after destroying water and sewage networks.⁹⁷ The IOF also targeted several journalists covering the IOF's attacks on Jenin by deliberately attempting to run them over with tanks.⁹⁸

The IOF forced approximately 1,000 Palestinian families – totalling about 5,000 individuals – to leave their homes in Jenin Refugee Camp at gunpoint.⁹⁹

October 2024

On 14 October, IOF forces killed Palestinian child Rayan Al-Sayed.¹⁰⁰

On 15 October, the IOF killed a Palestinian youth in Jenin Refugee Camp and withheld his body from medical personnel.¹⁰¹

November 2024

On 19 November, the IOF killed five Palestinians, including two youths.¹⁰²

In a 48-hour raid of Jenin from 20 to 21 November, IOF forces killed nine Palestinians and destroyed parts of the city.¹⁰³

The IOF's Attacks on Jenin continued...

December 2024

Between January 2023 and December 2024, 1,500 people in Jenin were displaced by IOF attacks.¹⁰⁵

January 2025

In January 2025, the IOF launched 'Iron Wall', a military operation to escalate IOF's preexisting pattern of attacks on Jenin and its Refugee Camp.¹⁰⁶

The IOF has killed over 38 Palestinians in Jenin this year, including 2-year-old baby Laila al-Khatib, and taken more than 60 Palestinians hostage.¹²³



Throughout December 2024 and January 2025, the IOF's attacks have displaced almost all Jenin Refugee Camp's residents, with IOF's attacks displacing 2,000 families from Jenin in January alone.¹⁰⁷ IOF forces have also damaged 120 houses in the past two months.¹⁰⁸

January 2025 continued...

Around 2,600 Palestinian families that have fled Jenin Refugee Camp are taking shelter in Jenin city, with around 100 families sheltering in buildings belonging to charities and other local institutions.¹⁰⁹

The IOF has also increased the number of checkpoints around Jenin and checkpoint wait times exceed eight hours.¹¹⁰

On 22 January, IOF attacks intentionally targeted healthcare operations in Jenin, by forcibly ordering the evacuation of Jenin hospital,¹¹¹ and preventing ambulance crews from reaching wounded Palestinians shot by IOF forces.¹¹²

Since 2025 began, IOF forces have killed 30 Palestinians in Jenin, including Palestinian children.¹¹³ One IOF soldier died and another four were injured.¹¹⁴

IOF forces have bulldozed 3kms of roads inside and around Jenin Refugee Camp, including those leading to Jenin Government Hospital, damaging critical water and sewage infrastructure and telephone networks.¹¹⁵

On 1 February, in the thirteenth day of the IOF's 'Iron Wall' attacks on Jenin, the IOF killed six Palestinians, including a child, a paramedic, and a 73-year-old elderly man.¹²⁴

On 2 February, IOF airstrikes destroyed 23 buildings in Jenin Refugee Camp, each likely housing five families due to the limited horizontal space within the camp.¹²⁵ These buildings were all in close proximity to each other, essentially destroying an entire neighbourhood of the camp.¹²⁶

On 3 February, the IOF restricted the funeral processions of seven martyrs, allowing only the families of the deceased to attend.¹²⁸

**“The Israeli
army wants to
destroy [Jenin]
camp and make
it like Jabalia”.**

Saleh Ammar

resident of Jenin¹¹⁶

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Zionist Settler Attacks on Jenin



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Zionist Settler Attacks on Jenin

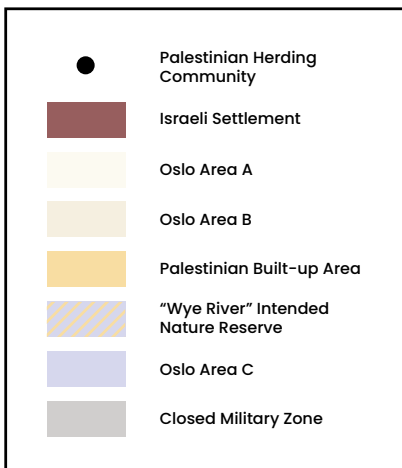
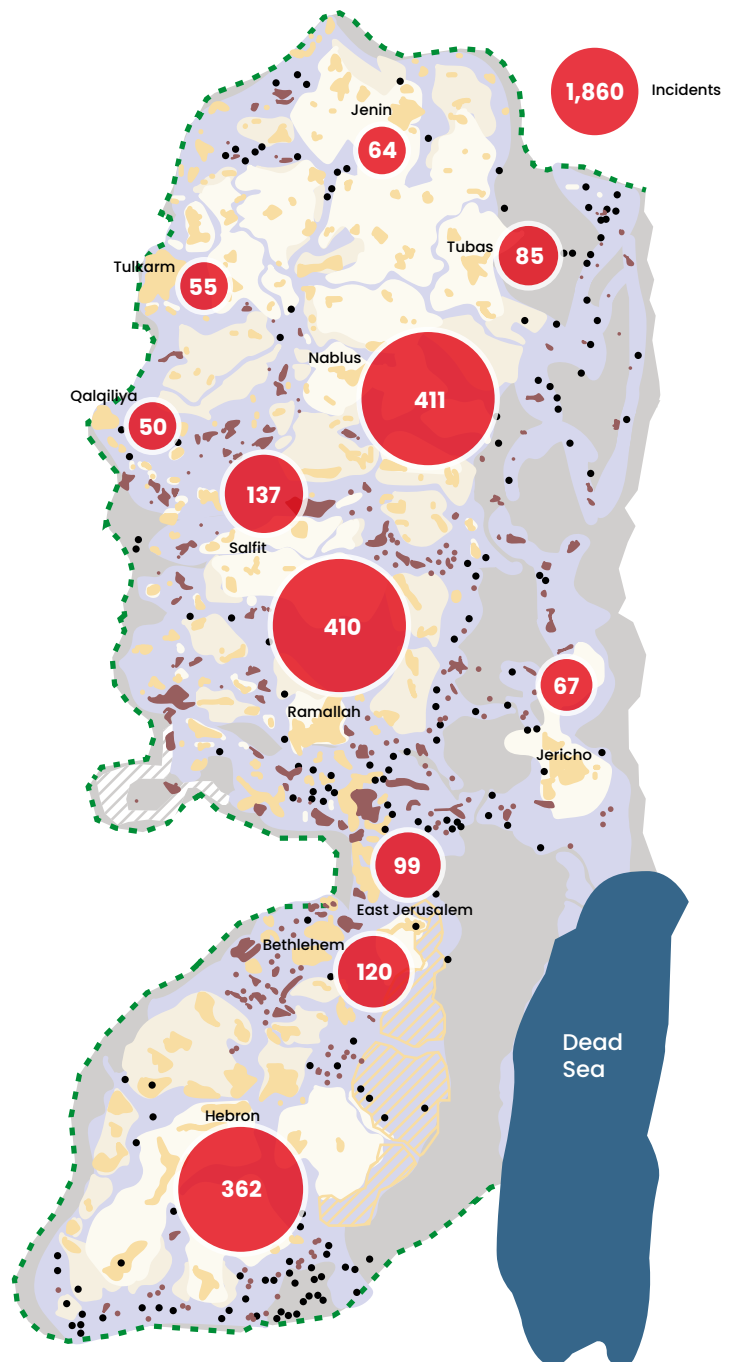
Between 7 October 2023 and 31 December 2024 there were 64 instances of settler attacks in Jenin governorate.¹¹⁷

In January 2025, Zionist settler mobs launched pogroms on Jenin and Palestinian cities in the occupied West Bank, attacking Palestinians, burning their property, and smashing their cars. Settlers killed over 10 Palestinians and injured more than 40.¹¹⁸

Since Trump's inauguration, settlers feel empowered by the strong support for their pogroms from key officials in Trump's administration, particularly since the signing of the executive order lifting sanctions against violent Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank.¹¹⁹

However, in comparison to other areas of the occupied West Bank, settler attacks are less frequent in Jenin than elsewhere, largely due to the deterrence provided by the Jenin Brigades.¹²¹

Attacks by Israeli settlers by governorate 7 October 2023 - 31 December 2024



“Since the Six-Day War (1967) until now, this month has been the most difficult. We have patients who take medication for diabetes and blood pressure and cannot reach the pharmacy to bring the medication.”

Umm Hani Jabawi

resident of Jenin Refugee Camp¹²⁰



07

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Western Media Bias

FRANCE
24

JENIN OPERATION

**Thousands flee
refugee camp**

© France24

07

Western Media Bias

Legitimisation of IOF attacks on protected sites

Western media justified IOF attacks on protected sites such as hospitals and mosques in Jenin as legitimate efforts to kill terrorists or to 'clear bombs'.

Inside Jenin mosque destroyed in Israeli missile strike

The Israeli military says it has struck a Hamas cell sheltering in a mosque in the occupied West Bank.

WORLD

Israeli forces kill 3 men accused of plotting Hamas terror attack in rare raid inside West Bank hospital

'Hundreds trapped' in West Bank hospital as Israeli troops clear roadside bombs in Jenin

Hamas commander killed in West Bank, Israeli military says

Western Media Bias continued...

Legitimisation of PA attacks on Jenin

Western media justified the PA's attacks on Jenin as focused on militants, ignoring their killing of unarmed children and mass arrests of Palestinian civilians.

**A new front in the Middle East: Militants battle
Palestinian Authority in sprawling refugee camp**

WORLD NEWS

**Why Palestinian forces are cracking
down on Palestinian militants in the
occupied West Bank**

Western Media Bias continued...

Depiction of attacks in West Bank as ‘clashes’, rather than IOF attacks

Western media depicts IOF military operations intended to kill Palestinians in Jenin as ‘clashes’, rather than intentional assassinations and destruction of civilian infrastructure, whilst portraying Palestinian resistance to extermination as terrorism or militancy.

Israeli troops, Palestinian militants clash in West Bank

Jenin raid: 14 Palestinians killed in clashes in West Bank city

Western Media Bias continued...

Failure to name IOF as perpetrator

Western media fails to name as the cause of destruction in Jenin, instead presenting damage as if it was the result of natural disaster.

EYEWITNESS

'The resistance is still here': Hamas fighters are bullish but situation remains extremely tense in Jenin

Palestinian families return to rubble in Jenin refugee camp

EYEWITNESS

Tensions run high in West Bank's Jenin refugee camp

“We are not outlaws, we are not drug dealers, and we are not here by chance. We are the sons of this country, and we will stay here, and we will not leave, and they will cross over our dead bodies.”

Raed Jaradat

resident of Jenin Refugee Camp.¹²²



Footnotes

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- ⁵ ‘Updates: As Israel-Hamas ceasefire holds, over 500,000 return to north Gaza’ Al Jazeera (29 January 2025) available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2025/1/29/live-more-than-370000-palestinians-return-to-north-gaza-unrwa-ban-looms>
- ⁶ ‘In an interview with Middle East Eye, a resistance fighter from Jenin camp in the occupied West Bank reflected on the recent raids’ Middle East Eye via Instagram (25 December 2024) available at https://www.instagram.com/p/DD_nYd2gWhh/?hl=en-gb
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- ²³⁻²⁴ ‘BeGeder Hatzlaha’ Bamahane (2003).

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