



occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)

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www.reliefweb.int/hic-opt/

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OCHA
Humanitarian
Update
OPT

Highlights

- 23 Palestinians killed and 170 injured this week;
- West Bank residents continue to defy curfews;
- 226,000 children unable to attend classes as a result of curfews;
- One child killed and several others in need of emergency treatment after inhaling tear gas;
- UNRWA hospital administrator severely beaten by IDF soldiers;

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Overview

On 29 September Palestinians marked the second anniversary of Intifada. Against the background of high tensions Palestinians held mass rallies defying the IDF curfews and the siege of Chairman Arafat's Ramallah headquarters in a number of acts of non-violent resistance. Several of the Palestinian demonstrations resulted in violent clashes when the IDF opened fire on Palestinian stones-throwers.

Palestinians defied the curfew regime in several urban centers of the West Bank. For four consecutive days the residents of Nablus defied the 24 hour curfew imposed on them 100 days ago by the IDF. Peaceful protests were also organised in Hebron, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Gaza.

The IDF employed tear gas in Hebron to disperse the demonstrators and to enforce the curfew regime causing the death of a Palestinian baby girl. 50 pupils of the UNRWA girl school of the Shufat Camp and 20 pre-school children sustained moderate injuries as a result of tear gas inhalation.

Three Palestinian children were injured in Balata camp and two others- aged 10 and 12 - were killed by the IDF in two separate incidents when the IDF re-entered Nablus and Balata camp to enforce the curfew (29-30 September).

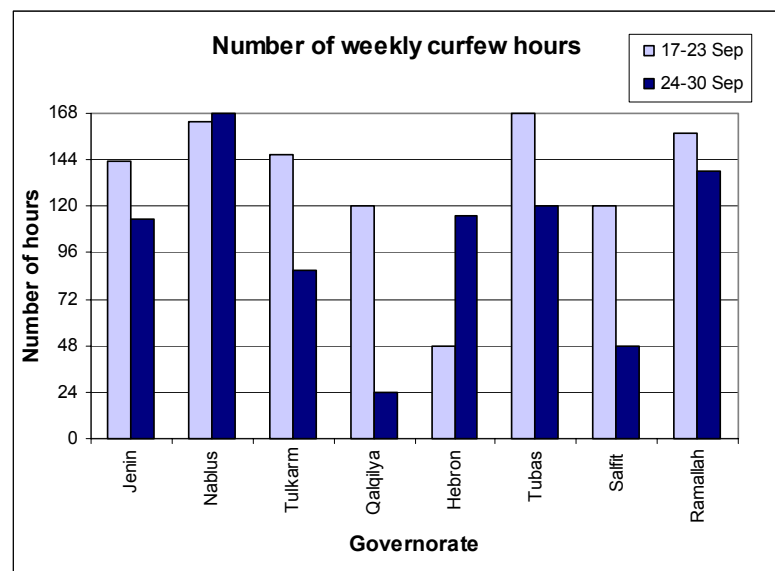
According to PRCS, 23 Palestinians were killed and another 170 injured during the reporting period. The number of casualties in the West Bank was: 7 killed and 129 injured; and in Gaza 16 killed and 41 injured. 11 Israelis were injured and 2 killed in the West Bank in the same period. In total there were 59 armed clashes in the West Bank during the reporting period.

According to the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment (LAW), the construction of the “security/separation” fence in the West Bank is well underway. Some 11,000 West Bank residents are estimated to be affected by the construction works. In addition, a sizeable agricultural area stretching between the Green Line and the security fence will remain inaccessible to Palestinian farmers. The fence that is expected to be 116 km long, will include electric fences, trenches and security patrols in addition to the concrete wall being erected around some areas such as Qalqilya. The West Bank city of Qalqilya will be surrounded by the fence leaving one entrance for residents.

For more detailed information about curfews see www.reliefweb.int/hic-opt/

Closures and Humanitarian Access

Some 431,000 Palestinians in 14 localities have now been under continuous curfew for more than 100 days. The curfew has been in place in Jenin town and camp, Nablus, Beit Iba, Beit Wazan, Balata camp, Askar camp, Tulkarm town and camp, Ein Beit el Ma camp, Beituniya, Al Bireh, Al Amari camp, and Ramallah between 100 and 106 days. In these localities the maximum number of curfew free hours in September was registered in Tulkarm town and camp, where the curfew was lifted for a total of 158 hours of 720 possible. The minimum number of curfew free hours was registered in Nablus where curfew was lifted only 8 hours during September.



The number of localities under curfew remained high during the period with a total of 36 localities placed under curfew; in 12 localities the curfew was total with 185,000 Palestinians confined to their homes for the whole period under review.

While the number of localities placed under curfew for more than 24 hours declined from 74 in August to a total of 46 localities in September, the enforcement of the curfew regime became more rigorous.

Compared with previous reporting period the curfew enforcement regimes were slightly eased. Although the number of affected localities remained unchanged, the curfew-free hours increased in some urban centres, except Hebron where the curfew was lifted for 53 hours only against 120 hours last week. The situation remains particularly dramatic in Nablus, where the last the curfew was last lifted on 18 September.

- Bethlehem; Battir and Husan in north east of Bethlehem governorate were placed under curfew on 28 September during which the IDF conducted search campaigns in the villages.
- Hebron; In Hebron governorate Dura and the Old City of Hebron were placed under curfew for 115 out of 168 hours. In addition Hahoul and Yatta were placed under curfew for one day during which the IDF conducted search and arrest campaigns.
- Jenin; Jenin town, the refugee camp and the villages of Anin, Birqin, Qabatiya were placed under curfew for varied duration: between 113 and 168 hours (24 hours x 7 days). In addition a 48 hours curfew was placed on Ya'bad.
- Jerusalem; The two villages Al Jib and Bir Nabala in Jerusalem Governorate were placed under 24 hours curfew due to a search and arrest campaign on Tuesday 24 September.
- Nablus; In Nablus Governorate 7 localities remain under curfew that was not lifted in any of the localities during the entire reporting period.
- Qalqilya; The village of Azzun, home to 7,300 persons, was the only locality in Qalqilya to be placed under continuous curfew during the reporting period. Qalqiliya town and the village of Izbat Salman were placed under curfew on one occasion between 24 Sept and 01 October.
- Ramallah; Ramallah and its satellite camps of Al Amari, Beituniya, and Al Bireh town were all under curfew for a total of 138 hours out of possible 168 during the reporting period.
- Salfit; Curfews were imposed on the villages of Deir Istiya and Kifl Haris on 23 September and were lifted 3 days later.
- Tubas; Tubas town remained under curfew for 120 hours of 168 during the reporting period.
- Tulkarm; The villages of Farun and Irtah close to the Green Line south of Tulkarm town were under strict curfew throughout the reporting period. The current curfew regime in these localities was established on 5 September. The curfew in Tulkarm town and camp was lifted regularly during the reporting period, with a total of 87 curfew hours.

Tight movement restrictions remain unchanged in the Gaza Strip. The Al Shuhada / Netzarim junction south of Gaza city on Salah el Deen road was closed during the week. The Palestinian traffic remains diverted to the coastal road. The Abu Houli checkpoint between Deir El Balah and Khan Yunis operated in three daily shifts throughout the reporting period.

The situation was calm in the Palestinian enclaves of Al-Mawasi and Seafa. There have been negotiations between the fish farmers and the IDF in order to lift the ban on fishing. Currently the fishing activity in Gaza is limited to the coastal area between the Gaza City and Deir El Balah, with a fishing zone limited to 8 nautical. Some 400

fishermen were allowed to go to sea this week as compared with the average of 2,500 before the current uprising.

In the northern enclave of Seafa the “gate opening hours” are now limited to 30 minutes twice a day. The road to the enclave was recently destroyed.

Gaza workers were granted access to Israel throughout the period under review. The number of workers allowed to enter Israel was on average 6,654 persons per day. In addition some 2,672 persons were allowed to access their work places at the Erez industrial zone.

Humanitarian Access:

National and international medical and health professionals working in Ramallah and Al Bireh defied the curfew imposed by IDF and participated in a march of protest against the IDF attacks on ambulances, medical teams and health institutions and all the denials and delays of access for medical staff and patients. The protesters demanded that the curfews be lifted and that ambulances, medical staff and supplies be allowed free and unhindered access.

UNRWA reports that staff members and vehicles traveling in Nablus governorate continue to be needlessly delayed by the IDF. Unexplained delays for more than one hour have occurred on several occasions. Currently 80% of UNRWA staff is able to reach their duty stations in Nablus governorate.

UNRWA teaching staff traveling from Hebron to the neighboring village of Sur Baher in a UN marked car was denied entrance four days in a row during last school week.

On 25 September an IDF unit broke into the UNRWA hospital in Qalqilya. Several employees including the hospital’s female administrator were severely beaten and verbally abused.

PRCS reports three cases of denial of access during the reporting period. In one incident on 29 September the PRSC medical team transporting a patient was attacked after being denied access.

Relief efforts

Health

Health Inforum reports that The U.S. Agency for International Development USAID has donated \$3 million to UNICEF for procurement and transport of essential vaccines and supplies for the West Bank and Gaza, covering a 12 month period. This donation was in response to the Emergency Appeal of the Ministry of Health that alerted the international donor community of the risk of vaccine shortages anticipated to begin in March 2003. Immunization against diseases such as measles, rubella, polio and hepatitis B is especially critical in the oPt, given the prevalence of acute and chronic malnutrition rates amongst children under five. Malnourished children are more susceptible to infection, and the severity and frequency of complications are higher.

Food

WFP: During the reporting period, a total of 954 MT of food commodities have been distributed to 54,270 beneficiaries. In the West Bank CRS distributed a total of 212.5 MT in bi-monthly rations to 6,840 beneficiaries in Jenin, Bethlehem, and Hebron. PARC distributed a total of 132.6 MT in monthly rations to 9,580 beneficiaries in Hebron, Jericho, Bethlehem, Nablus, Qalqilya and Salfit. Both CRS and PARC rounds of distributions are not yet complete. In Gaza, MSA distributed a total of 415.86 MT to 30,000 beneficiaries in middle and Southern Gaza Strip. CRS distributed a total of 102.81 MT to 3,325 beneficiaries in Gaza city and North of Gaza. PARC distributed 90.5 MT of wheat flour to 4,525 beneficiaries in the middle area of Gaza. During the last two weeks, approximately 44 trucks have been received in Gaza through Karni crossing and approximately 866 MT of commodities have been delivered to WFP counterparts MSA and PARC.

UNRWA: During the reporting period the UNRWA West Bank Field Office distributed 14,444 parcels of basic commodities to 22 localities in the West Bank, covering in total 24,600 beneficiaries. The UNRWA parcels are designed as supplementary food aid and are distributed every four months. Each UNRWA parcel contains 30 kg of wheat flour, 7 kg sugar, 7 kg rice, 4 kg powdered milk, and 4 liters of vegetable oil – for two persons.

Food parcels were distributed in Faqou'a, Tulkarm, Beit Fajar, Hebron, Jalbun, Rashaydeh, Rawain, Fawwar Camp, Um e-Tut, Wadi Fukin, Arurah, Zababdeh, Huwwara, Salfit, Nablus, Qarawat Bani Zaid, Kuf Ein, Beit Reema, Deir Ghassaneh, Rummaneh, Nilin and Ramallah.

ICRC: The prevailing security situation and difficulties of movements delay the implementation of the relief programs carried out by the ICRC in the West Bank villages and towns. Assistance in rural areas is being coordinated with the WFP which is a party to an agreement with the ICRC.

The Urban Relief program, initiated this summer by the ICRC, aims at providing economic support (in the form of vouchers) to 20,000 vulnerable families in the 9 major cities in the West Bank. Beneficiaries can redeem their monthly voucher at selected shops for essential food and household items. This program is constantly and systematically monitored by the ICRC and relies on the support of the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs, the Palestine Red Crescent society and other local well-established organizations. The second round of voucher distributions has been completed in Salfit, while the first round was successfully completed in 6 other cities (Ramallah, Qalqilya, Hebron, Tulkarem, Bethlehem and Jericho). In Nablus and Jenin, military operations and prolonged curfews have thus far prevented the distribution of vouchers. As part of its relief programme in rural areas, 2,418 families in 19 villages in Nablus, Hebron and Ramallah Governorates received last week over 363 MT of flour, rice and sugar.

The relief program designed for the Old City of Hebron (H2) has been severely affected by security constraints. Only 500 food parcels could be distributed to inhabitants of this area. In addition as part of ICRC's endeavors to provide water to some isolated villages in the West Bank, not connected to the water network, 900 households in Hebron district received water supply by trucks.

Education

According to UNICEF, the IDF curfews and other forms of closures enforced throughout the oPt have seriously disrupted the education of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian children.

UNICEF estimates that over 226,000 children and more than 9,300 teachers were unable to reach their classrooms and at least 580 schools have been closed to the army curfews and closures.

In the West Bank 23 school days have been lost in Nablus since the beginning of the school year in the early September 14 in Jenin and Tulkarem, 12 in Ramallah, 8 in Hebron and 6 in Qalqilya. As curfews continue, makeshift classrooms are being organised in basements, mosques and garages.

Several of UNWRA's schools did not operate this week due to curfews and closure. Jenin Boys school did not operate on 24-26 September, while the Nablus and Camp No. schools did not operate on 24-27 September. The Hebron Boys School was closed due to curfew.

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