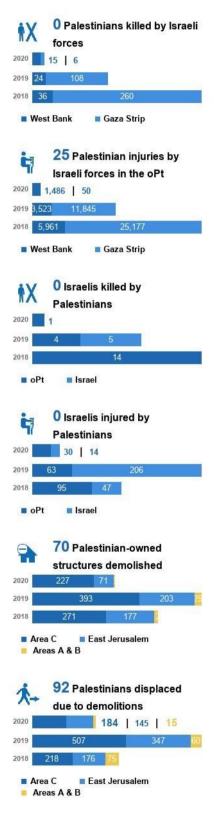


Protection of Civilians occupied Palestinian territory

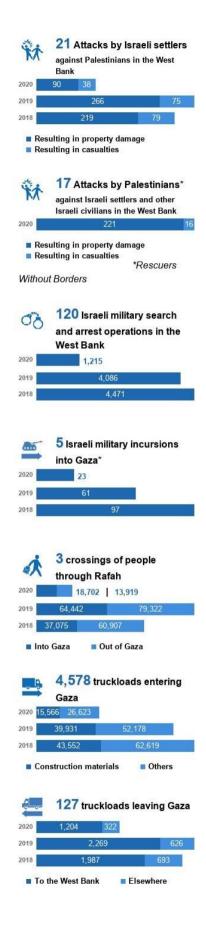
2 - 15 June 2020

Biweekly highlights

- Seventy Palestinian-owned structures were demolished or seized in the West Bank due to the lack of Israeli-issued building permits, displacing 90 people and affecting over 280. This represents a 250 per cent increase compared with the weekly average of structures targeted since the beginning of the year (10). Sixty-one of the affected structures were located in Area C, including nine previously provided as humanitarian assistance. Among the hardest hit areas was Massafer Yatta in southern Hebron, where the Israeli authorities demolished 17 homes, cisterns and livelihood-related structures. This area is designated as a "firing zone" for military training and its 1,300 residents face a coercive environment putting them at risk of forcible transfer. Nine of the affected structures were in East Jerusalem, of which four were demolished by their Palestinian owners to avoid municipal fees and possible damage to other structures and personal belongings. The increase in demolitions and displacement amidst the ongoing pandemic raises serious concern.
- A total of 25 Palestinians, including nine children, were injured in clashes with Israeli forces in the West Bank. Twenty-two of these injuries were recorded during the longstanding weekly demonstrations in Kafr Qaddum (Qalqiliya), held to protest against access restrictions and settlement expansion. One Palestinian was injured during a protest near Tubas against the expected annexation of parts of the West Bank to Israel and the other two during search and arrest operations in Al 'Isawiya neighbourhood of East Jerusalem and Qabatiya town (Jenin). Of the people injured, 12 were hit by rubber-coated metal bullets, ten were medically-treated for tear gas inhalation, two were physical assaulted and one was hit by a tear gas canister.
- During the reporting period, Israeli forces carried out 120 search-and-arrest operations and arrested around 190 Palestinians. Of these operations, 28 were recorded in East Jerusalem, 26 in the Hebron governorate, 15 in the Ramallah governorate and the rest elsewhere across the West Bank.



- In the Gaza Strip, on at least 35 occasions, Israeli forces opened fire in the areas adjacent to Israel's perimeter fence, and off the sea coast, presumably to enforce access restrictions; no injuries were reported. On five other occasions, Israeli forces entered Gaza and carried out land-levelling and excavation operations near the perimeter fence, east of Gaza, Beit Lahiya, Jabaliya and Rafah.
- A Palestinian armed group fired a rocket towards Israel, following which, Israeli forces bombed a few military sites and open areas near the perimeter fence. While none of the attacks resulted in injuries, the targeted sites in Gaza sustained damage. Additionally, a number of incendiary balloons were launched from Gaza towards southern Israel, for the first time in several months, with no damage reported.
- Exit of patients from Gaza via the Erez crossing continues to be impaired by the Palestinian Authority's (PA) halt of all coordination with the Israeli authorities. This measure was adopted in response to the Israel's intention to annex parts of the West Bank. Since 21 May, the PA has been only coordinating the exit of exceptional life-saving cases, while in some cases applications by patients have been forwarded to the Israeli authorities by human rights organizations. As part of the restrictions imposed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rafah crossing with Egypt has been completely closed for the exit of people from Gaza, including patients, since 11 March.
- Ten Palestinians were injured and at least 90 olive trees and ten vehicles vandalized by assailants believed to be Israeli settlers. One of the injuries was a ten-year old girl, who was pushed by a settler in the Old City of Jerusalem, sustaining an eye injury. The remaining nine Palestinians injured were stoned or beaten next to the settlements of Asfar (Hebron) and Homesh (Nablus); near the herding community of Khirbet Tana (Nablus), in the Dead Sea area; and in the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron city (H2). In the latter incident, which was caught on camera, an Israeli soldier stopped the attack and helped the Palestinian man to escape. In two incidents in Burin (Nablus) and Kafr ad Dik (Salfit) villages, settlers set fire or cut down at least 90 trees. Additionally, assailants believed to be settlers vandalized vehicles, tents and water-related structures in the villages of Jamma'in, As Sawiya and Lifjim (all in Nablus), Al Mughayyir (Ramallah) and Kifl Hares



- (Salfit), as well as in the H2 area of Hebron. In another six incidents, settlers grazed their sheep on land belonging to farmers from Qawawis community (Hebron), damaging at least 20 dunums of seasonal crops.
- According to an Israeli NGO, three Israelis were injured and 17 vehicles sustained damage as a result of stone and Molotov cocktail-throwing by Palestinians at Israeli-plated vehicles travelling on West Bank roads.