

STATEMENT

**Urgent Action Needed to protect Palestinian civilians in the Occupied
Palestinian Territory**

9pm local time on Tuesday 4th July

The Israeli military has launched an ongoing attack on Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank, killling twelve Palestinians, including four children, and injuring 120 more, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health (MoH) adding that first aid responders were being prevented from reaching critically injured people.

The ongoing ground incursion began overnight on Monday 2 July, when the Israeli military launched aerial drone strikes and missiles hitting the densely populated refugee camp of Jenin. Significant ground forces and Israeli army vehicles then surrounded the camp and launched a large-scale ground incursion. This is the most aggressive Israeli military operation on the West Bank since 2002.

The Palestinian death toll of in the West Bank in 2023 has now reached 156, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Only halfway through this year and it has already surpassed 2022 as the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since the UN began keeping records in 2005. This is also the result of troubling reports in recent weeks of aggressive attacks by Israeli settler groups on Palestinian towns, resulting in extensive damage and heightened tensions across the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Palestinians have alleged that Israeli security forces failed to intervene effectively during these attacks and may have even been involved in some instances of violence.

These incidents, along with the Israeli military's recent large-scale incursions into the Jenin refugee camp and damage to vital services such as electricity, water, and healthcare facilities, as well as increased movement restrictions, military raids, arbitrary arrests, and the use of force against Palestinian civilians have contributed to a **worsening humanitarian crisis and increased vulnerabilities among Palestinian communities**. It also results in further fragmentation of Palestinian communities, disproportionately affecting women and children who bear the brunt of violence and displacement.

The international community must give urgent attention to the ongoing violations of rights and violence perpetrated by Israeli forces which has only served to embolden the most far right Israeli government.

Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) calls on the international community to prioritize the protection of Palestinian communities with particular attention to women, and children. Immediate action is needed to address the escalating violence and mitigate its impact. The following recommendations are put forth to the international community:

- Call on all parties to immediately de-escalate the situation and respect civilian life while upholding International Humanitarian Law and ensuring humanitarian access to those in need and affected by the violence. In its engagement with Israeli authorities the international community must remind them of their adherence to the principles of necessity and proportionality and that the protection of civilians must be prioritized while avoiding attacks on hospitals and civilian infrastructure.
- Urgently call for the protection of Palestinian civilians from violent military attacks and re-instatement of basic services such as the provision of water and electric, that will allow families to return to their homes with dignity.
- Active engagement with international accountability mechanisms is necessary to ensure proper investigations into these incidents are conducted and appropriate actions taken to address these violations.
- Efforts must be made to upscale humanitarian assistance to affected Palestinian communities. This will help mitigate the impact of violence on vulnerable populations and provide essential support.