



Media Digest #2 The Situation in Occupied Palestine [17 - 23 April 2025]

President Abbas Chairs 32nd Session of the Palestinian Central Council

On [23 April](#), President of the State of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas addressed the 32nd session of the Palestinian Central Council/PLO in Ramallah, Palestine. In his speech, the President stressed that the Palestinian people are facing immense dangers that resemble a new Nakba (catastrophe), **“threatening our very existence and endangering our entire national cause.”**

The President described the enormity of the losses suffered in the Gaza Strip, where more than 200,000 Palestinian people have been martyred or wounded so far in Israel’s genocidal war. He stressed that these are human beings, not mere statistics, who can never be regarded as just ‘tactical losses’: **“The loss of even one of our children is a tragedy for us — so what about the loss of all these victims?”**

- The Israeli occupation aims to liquidate the Palestinian cause through its organized terrorism in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.
- We will continue our just struggle, and the world must fulfil its duty by standing with us until we reclaim our legitimate rights.
- Standing with UNRWA and supporting it is part of protecting the Palestinian cause and the rights of Palestinian refugees.
- Ending the Israeli occupation is essential to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and ensure security and stability in Palestine and the region.
- Hamas must commit to the will of our people, which demands it ends its control of the Gaza Strip, hand over all governance and authority the legitimate Palestinian National Authority and the PLO **“in order to protect our people’s blood, interests, and future.”** Anyone who sees himself as separate from his people cannot be trusted with their future.
- We thank our Arab brothers and sisters for their supportive positions towards our people’s just struggle and their rejection of forced displacement from our land.
- We call for an international peace conference to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace and end the conflict that began with the Balfour Declaration of 1917.





- Our success in confronting current challenges requires internal Palestinian reconciliation built on inclusive national principles, including adherence to the PLO charter and program, international legitimacy, and the principle of a united Palestinian government.

President Abbas affirmed that the efforts of the Palestinian Government on all fronts and levels have focused on achieving four key priorities, which represent the necessities of this current crucial moment:

1. To stop the Israeli genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, secure the complete withdrawal of occupation forces, and halt Israeli attacks against the West Bank.
2. To lift the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip, ensuring the flow of essential aid and supplies to the population.
3. To resist and prevent the forced displacement of the Palestinian people from Gaza.
4. To safeguard the Palestinian cause as the cause of a people seeking to liberate their occupied homeland and exercise their national rights within the framework of international legitimacy.

“Our main concern has been to realize these priorities that protect our people, safeguard our national cause, end the aggression and occupation, and secure a just and comprehensive peace for all, without exception.”

Palestine Has Lost a Loyal Friend: Pope Francis Dies at 88

The [Palestinian Government](#) offered its deepest condolences to the Vatican and to believers worldwide for the great loss represented by the passing of Pope Francis, who [Palestinian President Abbas](#) described as having been ***“a symbol of tolerance, love, and fraternity.”***

“Today, Palestine has lost a loyal friend to the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights, a strong defender of the values of peace, love, and faith in the entire world, and a true friend of peace and justice.”

In his final [public address](#), delivered on Easter Sunday just one day before his tragic passing, Pope Francis expressed his closeness to the sufferings of the Palestinian people: ***“I think of the people of Gaza, and its Christian community in particular, where the terrible conflict continues to cause death and destruction and to create a dramatic and deplorable humanitarian situation.”***

The Pope once again appealed for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and action to ***“come to the aid of a starving people that aspires to a future of peace.”***





Christians Commemorate Easter in Palestine Amid Tight Israeli Restrictions

Christian churches across Palestine commemorated Easter in a solemn and restricted atmosphere due to the ongoing Israeli aggression in the Gaza Strip and tight Israeli restrictions on Palestinian worshippers (both Christian and Muslim) in occupied Jerusalem. Israeli police imposed an [overwhelming military presence](#) around the Old City, turning it into a militarised zone of checkpoints, restrictions, and weapons pointed at [Christian worshippers](#).

- Israeli restrictions were so severe that [Israeli forces far outnumbered the Christian worshippers](#) present at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre during one of the most sacred Christian celebrations of the year.
- Among the worshippers obstructed from reaching the Church to observe Holy Saturday was the Apostolic Nuncio (the Vatican's Ambassador to the State of Palestine). This was described by the [Palestinian Foreign Ministry](#) as a **"dangerous precedent"**.

The [Palestinian Government Communication Centre](#) stated that Palestinian Christians this Easter were **"once again met with systematic repression, force, apartheid, and restrictions, instead of peace and reverence,"** adding that, **"in occupied Jerusalem, where it all began, faith is not protected—it's targeted."**

The [Palestinian Foreign Ministry](#) considered the occupation's practices against Palestinian Christians as **"racist and discriminatory, falling within the broader context of targeting Jerusalem and its Christian and Islamic holy sites, and constituting a blatant violation of the freedom of worship and the freedom of access to religious sites."**

The [Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem](#) emphatically condemned **"the egregious violations that desecrated the sanctity of Jerusalem,"** which deprived thousands of their right to prayer and worship, **"in direct contradiction to Jerusalem's eternal vocation as a city of peace."**

Escalating Incitement and Provocations against Al-Aqsa Mosque

The [Palestinian Foreign Ministry](#) has warned of extremist Israeli settler organisations' growing incitement and provocations against Al-Aqsa Mosque, aimed at escalating attacks on Islamic and Christian holy sites in occupied Jerusalem, and called for serious and effective international intervention to stop them.

- The [Jerusalem Governorate](#) reported that on 17 April alone, 2,258 Israeli settlers stormed the courtyards of the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound under heavy IOF protection - the first time since 1967 that so many intruders had entered in a single day.





- In addition, a [provocative AI-generated video clip](#) titled “Next Year in Jerusalem,” has been circulating on extremist Israeli platforms, depicting the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound being bombed and the construction of a so-called Third Temple in its place.

The [Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territory](#) strongly condemned the video as blatant incitement targeting the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque which reflects the ideology of extremist colonial groups and colonialist organizations, whose incitement is increasingly being amplified. He held the Israeli occupation authorities fully responsible for the consequences, stressing that such actions constitute a grave provocation to the feelings of Muslims worldwide.

The [Palestinian Cabinet](#) condemned in the strongest terms the continued Israeli incursions into the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound in occupied Jerusalem and the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.

Israel’s Escalating Genocidal Campaign in Gaza Strip

On 21 April, the Government Communication Centre (GCC) at the Prime Minister’s Office issued its weekly [Situation Report](#) warning of a new and deadly phase in the Israeli occupation’s genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people in Gaza:

“Amid the ongoing bombing and suffering without food, water, electricity, or medicine - even the air tainted with the smell of explosives and shell dust - Israel, the occupying Power, has continued to tighten its comprehensive siege of the Gaza Strip, preventing the entry of essential supplies and humanitarian aid since 2 March and even obstructing the distribution of available humanitarian assistance.”

The [Palestinian Foreign Ministry](#) emphasized the urgency of international responsibility in this regard: **“The occupation continues to kidnap and strangle our people due to the absence of an international force to compel [Israel] to implement international legitimacy resolutions.”**

Israeli Blockade Threatens 602,000 Children with Permanent Paralysis & Disabilities

Medical sources in the Gaza Strip stated that [602,000 children are at risk](#) of permanent paralysis and chronic disabilities due to the Israeli occupation’s ongoing prevention of the delivery of polio vaccines to Gaza, placing an entire generation in irreversible danger. [The Palestinian Prime Minister’s Office](#) responded:

“This is state-engineered suffering. Our kids are not a bargaining chip.”

PLO Condemns Israeli Measures to Further Colonial Expansion on Palestinian Land





The head of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)'s [Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission](#), Minister Muayyad Shaban, has condemned Israel's recent decision to convert 13 colonial neighbourhoods into full-fledged settlements.

- This is a clear and deliberate attempt to facilitate the Israel's colonial settlement agenda, expand control of Palestinian land, and further fragment and isolate Palestinian communities, thereby undermining any potential for geographic continuity between Palestinian villages and towns.
- The Minister criticized Israel's right-wing government in this context for openly prioritising colonial settlement expansion since its formation and continuing to push forward annexation efforts to seize Palestinian land in blatant disregard for international law.
- The international community must take clear, concrete, and effective action against Israel's ongoing violations, particularly in light of the recent International Court of Justice (ICJ) [advisory opinion](#), as well as [UN Security Council Resolution 2334](#).

PM Mustafa Stresses Urgent Need to Expedite Dignified Temporary Shelter for Displaced Families in Northern West Bank

On 22 April, Palestinian Prime Minister Dr Mohammad Mustafa addressed the weekly Palestinian Cabinet session, underscoring the urgent need to expedite and intensify efforts to provide dignified and temporary shelter for displaced families in the northern West Bank—coordinated with UNRWA and set to benefit over 6,000 families—and to secure additional funding.

- This is in the context of [Israel's continuing aggression](#) against the northern West Bank, which has resulted in the killing of at least 51 Palestinians, widespread destruction of infrastructure, and the forcible displacement of over 45,000 Palestinians by the Israeli occupation in the areas of Jenin and Tulkarem alone, in addition to dozens of injuries and arrests.

In addition, the Palestinian Cabinet reviewed and discussed new measures to boost Palestinian export potential, strengthen e-payment systems, and promote financial inclusion – especially in light of the exceptional challenges facing the Palestinian people and national economy.

Israel Bans Palestinian Minister of Jerusalem Affairs from Entering the Occupied West Bank

In a deliberate attempt to deepen the isolation of Jerusalem and undermine the ability of the Palestinian Government to fulfil its duties, Israeli occupation authorities have banned the Palestinian Minister of Jerusalem Affairs from entering the occupied West Bank for a period of six months.





[The Government of Palestine](#) responded with extreme concern to this grave escalation, which is a blatant violation of international law and signed agreements and a part of the Israeli occupation's broader systematic policy of eroding the Palestinian presence in the Holy City to further Israel's annexation agenda.

The Palestinian Government and its diplomatic corps are actively continuing efforts to thwart this dangerous decision and mobilize maximum pressure on the Israeli occupation government to rescind it immediately.

Palestinian Women & Girls in Israeli Detention: Ongoing Human Suffering and Escalating Retaliatory Measures

To mark Palestinian Prisoners' Day, 17 April 2025, the Palestinian Ministry of Women's Affairs issued a [new evidence-based report](#) on the situation of Palestinian women and girls detained by the Israeli occupation. The report documents severe and escalating policies, practices, crimes, and violations committed by the Israeli occupation deliberately and systematically targeting Palestinian women and girls as a strategy of war intended to dominate and destroy the Palestinian people.

The report also highlights the particularly egregious Israeli policy of forcibly disappearing large numbers of Palestinian women and girls from the Gaza Strip, constituting a crime against humanity.

[The Ministry of Women's Affairs](#) calls for immediate international protection for Palestinian female detainees, including through the following actions:

- Holding Israel, the occupying power, accountable for its responsibilities to the occupied Palestinian people, and preventing any evasion of accountability for its violations against Palestinian women and girls.
- Obliging Israel to open its prisons and detention centres to international monitoring bodies, release all detained Palestinian women and girls, and disclose the fate of those who have been forcibly disappeared.
- Urging the international community to assume its responsibility in implementing UN Security Council resolutions on the protection of women in armed conflict, and to obligate Israel to respect its commitments under the Geneva Conventions regarding the protection of detainees and civilians.

