

Violence within camps in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt)



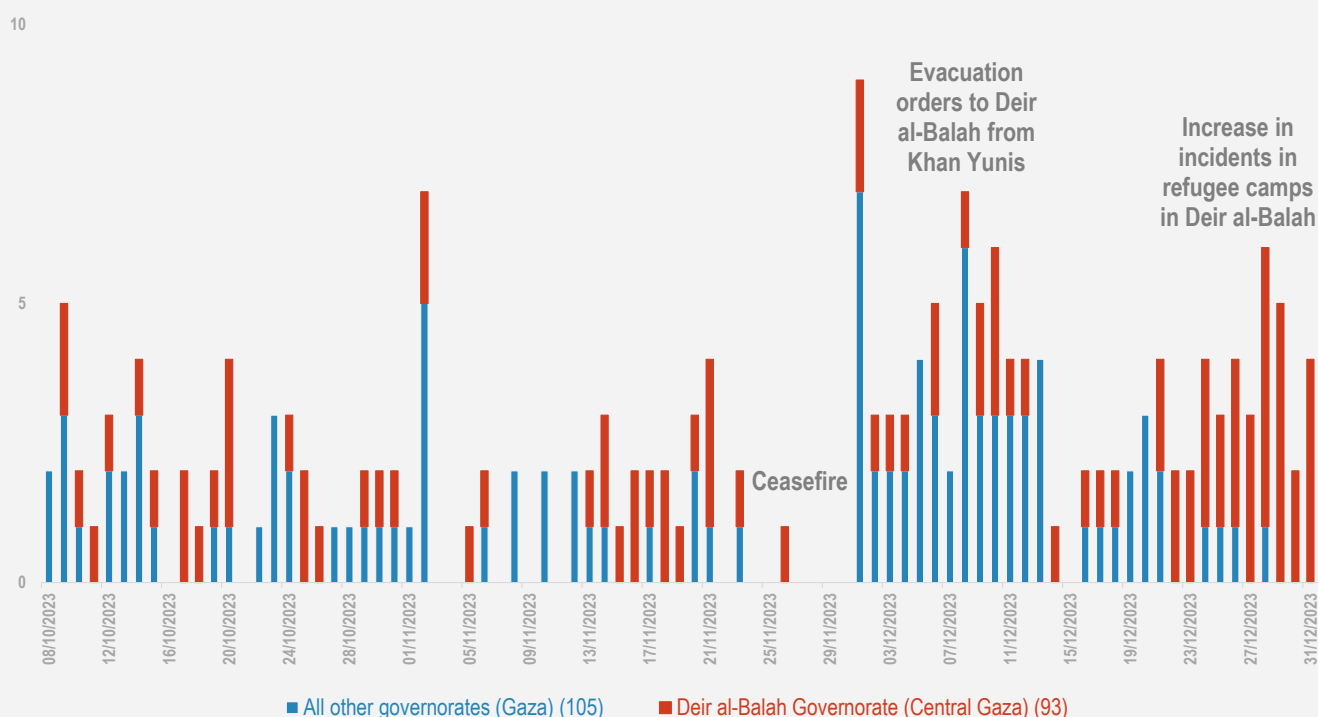
Protection in Danger

February 2024

Recorded Violence in Refugee Camps in the oPt, 07 October 2023- 31 December 2023

	REPORTED INCIDENTS INSIDE REFUGEE CAMPS ¹	INCIDENTS WHERE REFUGEE CAMPS WERE DAMAGED BY EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS	INCIDENTS WHERE REFUGEE CAMPS WERE RAIDED
GAZA	195	169	3
EAST JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK	139	14	86

In December 2023, there was an increase in incidents in Al-Maghazi, Bureij and Nuseirat Refugee Camps in Deir al-Balah governorate (Central Gaza) where civilians had been previously ordered to evacuate to



Data source: [Insecurity Insight](#) on [HDX](#). Contact us for curated datasets.

Insecurity Insight identified at least 348 incidents that took place at refugee camps in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) between 07 October 2023 and 31 December 2023. Nearly 90% of incidents were attributed to Israeli forces. Fatah, Qassam Brigades and other unidentified armed groups were named as perpetrators but less often. Damage to refugee camps by explosive weapons use was frequently reported in Gaza whilst camp raids were more common in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Insecurity Insight calls for independent investigations and for all conflict parties to uphold international humanitarian law.

Mailing List

In the **Gaza Strip**, where 195 incidents were reported, [more than 80% of the population](#) have been internally displaced, some of whom have been displaced more than once due to continuous shelling and bombardments since 07 October 2023. Displaced persons have been sheltering inside residential buildings in refugee camps as well as in UNRWA buildings, schools and hospitals.² Seven of the territory's eight UNRWA refugee camps have been hit by Israeli airstrikes resulting in hundreds of deaths and injuries, the majority of which were [women and children](#). Nearly half of the reported incidents took place in three refugee camps in Deir al-Balah governorate (Central Gaza), where in December civilians were ordered to evacuate to from Khan Yunis and surrounding areas following an Israeli ground incursion into Gaza. These camps were Al-Maghazi, Bureij, and Nuseirat Refugee Camps. By the end of the month, all three camps were hit by Israeli airstrikes on an almost daily basis, This coincided with a [ground offensive into these three camps](#). However, there were no recorded incidents inside a fourth refugee camp (Deir el-Balah Refugee camp which is the smallest camp inside Gaza).

In the **West Bank**, 139 incidents were reported at 18 of the 19 official UNRWA refugee camps and mostly involved search and arrest operations by Israeli soldiers. During these operations, many of which took place over several hours or multiple days, Israeli soldiers entered the camp with armed vehicles and bulldozers arresting multiple Palestinians and destroying public and private infrastructure. In one case on 28 November, Israeli forces carried out a 12-hour security operation on Jenin Refugee Camp, arresting at least 100 camp residents and fatally shooting an eight and 15-year-old. Israeli drones and bulldozers demolished vital infrastructure, including water, electricity and sewage networks, and homes were destroyed, displacing Palestinian families. Opposition groups clashed with Israeli soldiers and an unspecified number of people were injured. Explosive weapons launched from armed drones were deployed at least 14 times during search and arrest operations into Al Fa'ara Camp, Balata Camp, Jenin Camp, Nur Shams Camp and Tulkarm camp. Often during raids, Israeli soldiers were stationed around nearby hospitals [obstructing ambulances](#) from reaching injured people.

¹ This brief only includes incidents of violence and threats to officially designated refugee camps inside the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

² Incidents inside these temporary shelters have not been included in the figures for this brief. Only incidents which have affected officially designated refugee camps have been included.

Related content

Protection in Danger in the oPt Incident Briefs

Reported threats and incidents of violence affecting IDP and refugee camps in the oPt. Past editions: [December](#); [November](#); [October 2023](#)

Violence within Syria's Camps

Between 24 July and 29 July, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) carried out three security operations in the overcrowded and impoverished Al-Hol camp in Al-Hasakah governorate where they detained 35 residents, 30 of whom were children. These raids followed a security policy where boys, including those under 10-years-old, are systematically forcibly separated from their mothers and detained in efforts to deter future security risks. Insecurity Insight's monitoring has recorded a total of 192 incidents of threats or violence inside Syrian camps between January 2021 and July 2023. In these incidents, 122 residents have been killed, including women and children, and numerous others injured. In addition over 290 more have been arrested by various security forces. [Read more](#)

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