



Palestine during Covid - 19

For those who don't know, Palestine was a country before it was illegally occupied by Israeli forces in 1997 creating a 53 year long oppression lasting up to this day. Palestinians now live in small camps where they are subject to violence, bombing, torture, kidnapping, electricity cuts, water shortages etc. To add to this, racism towards people of colour is also a regular issue in Israel

'Endless Trip to Hell': Israel Jails Hundreds of Palestinian Boys a Year. These Are Their Testimonies

They're seized in the dead of night, blindfolded and cuffed, abused and manipulated to confess to crimes they didn't commit. Every year Israel arrests almost 1,000 Palestinian youngsters, some of them not yet 13

By Netta Ahituv | Mar 16, 2019

My daughter was tortured and forced to spout lies

► Sabha Al Wawi says her daughter Dima, 12, is not the only child to be locked up in Israeli jails - there are hundreds of others



Sabha Al Wawi comforts her 12-year-old daughter, Dima, after Majid Mohammed / AP Photo



So what is it like during covid-19?


- The 19 refugee camps in the West Bank and East Jerusalem are overcrowded with more than 2,40,000 Palestinians. Israel's military control and the intentionally debilitating building and property restrictions result in overcrowding in Palestinian areas.
- There are approximately 2 million Palestinians living in the Gaza-Strip, an open-air prison with 96 percent undrinkable water, that has been under Israeli siege for thirteen years.




The ability to practice basic preventative measures varies greatly depending on one's location. How can Palestinians living in overpopulated camps and areas practice social distancing?

Israel's occupation has also damaged the Palestinian health system, which may not be able to cope with the spread of COVID-19.

Continuous Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip have resulted in the destruction of medical facilities and hospitals, in addition to the killing and injuring of civilians.



The health system in the West Bank and Gaza is overstretched and suffers from shortages in medical staff, medications, medical equipment, testing kits and disinfectants. Such shortages would weaken any health system's ability to effectively combat coronavirus. In Gaza, it will be difficult to replenish these needs due to Israel's blanket and arbitrary border closures.



However, despite this Palestinian communities have been proactive in combating this pandemic by adhering to quarantine and lockdown measures, and taking the necessary precautions to prevent COVID-19 from spreading further. Additionally, Palestinians have been **trying** to support each other where and when possible by distributing food and money to those in need.

Thank you



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• <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/06/50-years-israeli-occupation-longest-modern-history-170604111317533.html>

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More articles shown from slide 2:

<https://www.thenational.ae/opinion/my-daughter-was-tortured-and-forced-to-spout-lies-1.143202>

Although I selfishly prayed that it was someone else's daughter, that another mother would claim the little girl in the photo, it was unmistakable. Dima lay blindfold with her face violently shoved against the pavement. A settler's foot was rammed against her back and a gun was pointed at her head. The photos and videos were taken near the illegal settlement of Karmi Tsur, a settlement built on the land of Halhul, north of Hebron.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium.MAGAZINE-israel-jails-hundreds-of-palestinian-boys-a-year-1.7021978>

"the ill treatment of children who come in contact with the military detention system, [which] appears to be widespread, systematic and institutionalized." A report a year earlier from British legal experts concluded that the conditions the Palestinian children are subjected to amount to torture, and just five months ago the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe deplored Israel's policy of arresting underage children, declaring, "An end must be put to all forms of physical or psychological abuse of children during arrest, transit and waiting periods, and during interrogations."

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/black-lives-matter-israel-180329061234932.html>

Haftom Zarhum was the first African refugee to be lynched by Israelis in a public place, in full view of CCTV cameras, but he would not be the last. The following year, two Israeli teens killed another African refugee, Babikir Ali Adham-Abdo, [beating him to death](#) right outside of the city hall of Petach Tikvah, a Tel Aviv suburb.