

# *UNRWA says Israel violates right to education by storming West Bank schools*

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UNRWA's lettering on a sign at the girls' school in the Talibeh refugee camp in the occupied

Geneva, February 19 (RHC)-- Philippe Lazzarini, the commissioner-general of the UN agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA), has censured the closure of a number of UN-run educational centers across the occupied West Bank.

Lazzarini confirmed in a social media post on Tuesday that Israeli soldiers stormed three schools and a training center in the occupied eastern part of al-Quds and ordered immediate evacuations.

The senior UN official said 250 children in three schools run by the UN agency were affected, along with more than 350 trainees at the large training center that was targeted in Qalandiya.

"At least 350 students and 30 staff were present and impacted. Tear gas and sound bombs were fired," he added.

"This is a violation of the basic right to education as well as of United Nations privileges and immunities," Lazzarini added in a post on X.

"Children's access to education must be preserved and United Nations facilities must be protected and respected at all times wherever they are."

Israel has killed more than 13,000 students in the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank since October 2023.

The Israeli military has already bombed and vandalized at least 324 government schools, universities, and buildings affiliated with them and 65 affiliated with the UNRWA in Gaza. The buildings are damaged or completely destroyed.

Most students have been exposed to the trauma of war, the consequences of which will last a lifetime.

Witnesses and local activists said the soldiers raided the town of Kafr ad-Dik, west of Salfit city, and razed a house for allegedly lacking a building permit.

Six more homes were brought down in the Masafer Yatta area near al-Khalil in the southern West Bank for lacking construction permits.

The Israeli military demolished 126 Palestinian structures in the West Bank last month, including 74 inhabited homes and 29 agricultural facilities.

The demolitions came during Israeli raids in the northern part of the West Bank that have displaced at least 40,000 people since January 21.

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