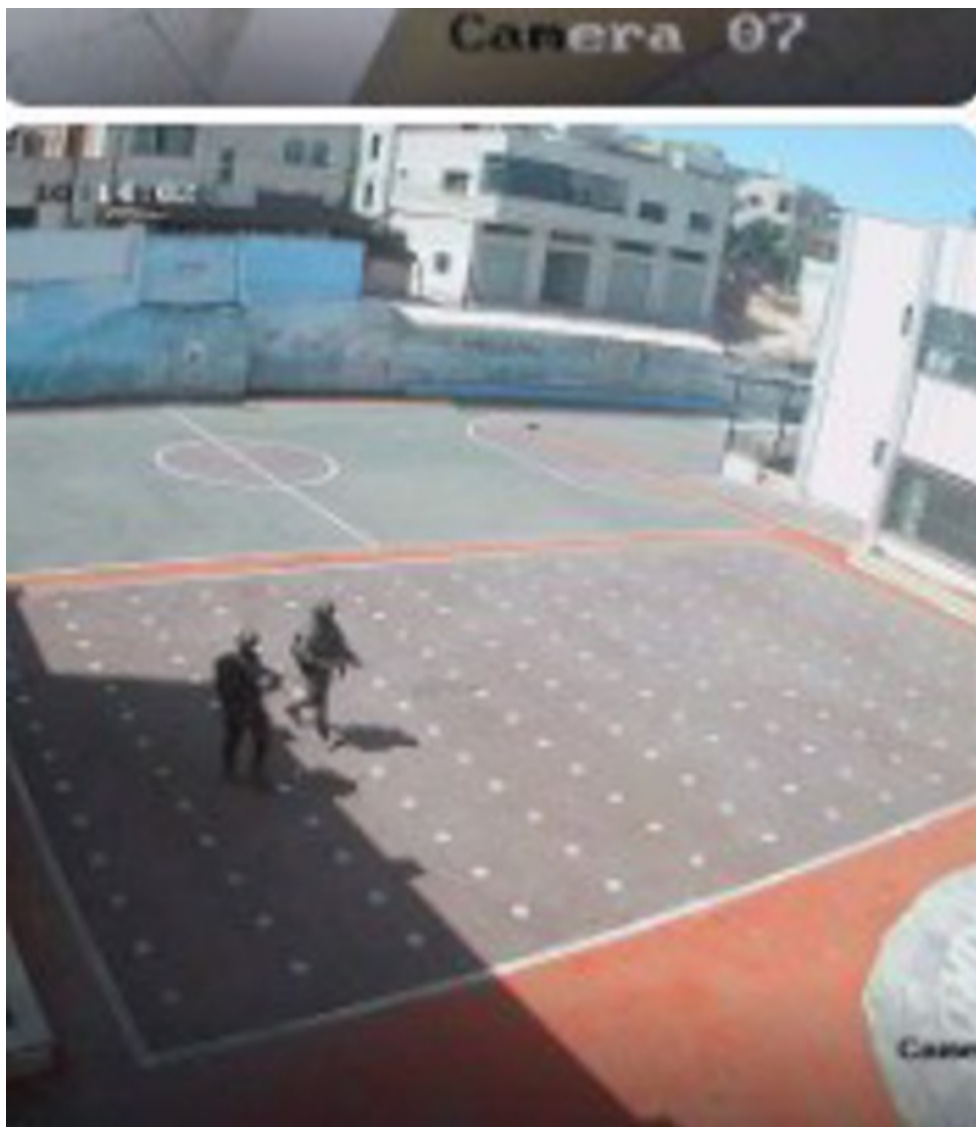


Palestinian Authority condemns Israeli attacks on schools in West Bank



Israeli soldiers are seen in the occupied West Bank. (File photo)

Ramallah, May 17 (RHC)-- The Palestinian Authority's Education Ministry has strongly denounced Israel for fierce and aggressive attacks on schools across the occupied West Bank.

In a statement released on Friday, the ministry stressed that these escalating violations against schools and educational staff throughout the occupied West Bank, East al-Quds and Gaza are "part of a systematic colonial aggression." It called on international organizations, human rights groups, and education advocacy bodies to urgently intervene to halt these ongoing violations and hold the occupation accountable for its attacks on schools, universities, and educational institutions.

Local Palestinian media earlier reported that the Israeli army stormed al-Munjid Private School in Bruqin and the Martyr Mazen Abu al-Wafa Basic School in Kafr ad-Dik.

Palestinian Wafa news agency reported that the occupation bulldozers have also begun excavation and bulldozing works next to the Bruqin Girls' Primary School. The forces also converted the as-Salam Kindergarten building in Kafr ad-Dik into a military outpost, the report added.

Since October 2023, Israeli attacks have demolished or damaged numerous UNRWA schools and health centers in the Palestinian territories.

The Organization of American Historians (OAH) recently voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution that condemns Israel for its "scholasticide" in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military has bombed and mostly destroyed all 12 universities in Gaza and hundreds of primary and secondary schools. More than 200 heritage sites, including mosques, churches, and libraries, have been destroyed.

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.

The Palestinian resistance group says Israeli "settler gangs, supported by the occupation army" continue their attacks in the occupied West Bank. Hamas said the latest attacks took place at dawn in several villages in the Salfit governorate and northwest of Nablus.

The Palestinian group said the attacks reflect a dangerous escalation and called for increased resistance and confrontation with the settlers.

In the occupied West Bank raids continued and roads were blocked on Friday after Israeli forces killed at least five Palestinians across the region.

Israel launched an intensified offensive against the occupied West Bank on January 21, claiming that it was targeting resistance fighters of the Jenin Battalion.

Thousands of Palestinians have left their homes in Jenin and the nearby city of Tulkarm in the northern West in recent months. Palestinians fear Gaza-style clearance as Israel squeezes Jenin and other refugee camps across the occupied region,

The regime has ramped up its West Bank violence since October 7, 2023, when it launched its genocide in Gaza. Since then, Israeli forces and settlers have killed about 1000 Palestinians in the occupied territory.

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