

# *Israeli drone strike in West bank kills 10 Palestinians as violence intensifies*

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An Israeli drone strike on the town of Tamun in the Tubas district in the northern West Bank kills

## 10 Palestinians on January 29, 2024. (Photo by Wafa)

Ramallah, January 30 (RHC)-- An Israeli drone strike on a village in the occupied West Bank has killed at least 10 Palestinians and injured several others as the regime has intensified its military assault in the region since a ceasefire took effect between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

The Palestinian Health Ministry in a statement on Thursday said "there are 10 martyrs due to the occupation's bombing of the town of Tamun in the Tubas district" in the northern West Bank on Wednesday. Initially, the Palestinian Red Crescent reported seven deaths from the attack.

Israel's use of a jet fighter to strike the rural village of Tamun marked the latest escalation in its intensifying crackdown on Palestinians in the occupied territory.

Local residents reported that the airstrike hit a home in a densely populated area, while the Palestinian Health Ministry warned that the casualty count may rise.

As is customary, the Israeli military claimed that the airstrike was part of a "counterterrorism operation" carried out by an Israeli aircraft based on intelligence from the ISA (Israel Security Agency) in the Tamun area.

In response, Hamas condemned the strike, stating that the "escalating crimes of the fascist occupation in the West Bank" and its ongoing policy of targeting resistance fighters reaffirmed its criminal approach against the Palestinian people and represented a failed attempt to undermine their steadfast resistance.

The incident is part of a broader Israeli offensive in the northern West Bank, particularly targeting the cities of Jenin and Tulkarm and their surrounding refugee camps.

Since the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect in Gaza on January 19, at least 20 Palestinians have been killed in the occupied West Bank as a result of attacks by Israeli forces, with many other Palestinians injured or displaced.

The United Nations has repeatedly warned that Israel may repeat its campaign of genocide in Gaza in the West Bank.

Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, has criticized Western politicians for their silence as Israeli forces kill Palestinian children in the West Bank. "As Israel continues to kill Palestinian children from the River to the Sea, where are the Western politicians to be seen or heard?" she questioned in a post on the X platform on Tuesday.

A group of UN experts has also expressed concern over the escalating violence in Jenin and the broader West Bank. They noted that the timing of the attacks coincided with a US decision to lift limited sanctions on Israeli settlers and Israeli authorities' removal of administrative detentions and other sanctions related to settler violence.

"The lack of intervention by states to protect Palestinians in line with international law is alarming and of catastrophic ramifications," the experts stated.

The Palestinian Health Ministry reports that since the onset of the Gaza war, Israeli forces and settlers have killed at least 873 Palestinians in the West Bank.

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