

Dozens of Palestinian protesters injured by Israeli forces

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Protesters return tear gas canisters amid clashes with Israeli forces near the village of Beit Dajan, east of Nablus in the occupied West Bank. (Photo: AFP)

Ramallah, December 25 (RHC)-- Dozens of Palestinians have been injured as Israeli forces continue to crack down on anti-settlement protests in the occupied West Bank. Israeli forces fired tear gas at people taking part in a rally in the village of Beit Dajan, east of Nablus City, on Friday, leaving dozens of people

suffering breathing difficulties.

Also on Friday, clashes erupted between Israeli forces and locals who had taken part in a rally in Deir Jarir, east of Ramallah City, to protest against a settler unit that had been built in the village a few days earlier.

An unspecified number of protesters were hit by rubber bullets and dozens of others suffered breathing difficulties due to inhaling tear gas fired by the Israeli troops. Palestinian media reports said Israeli forces prevented Palestinian ambulances from approaching the scene of the clashes in Deir Jarir and from rescuing the wounded. Israeli forces also suppressed a protest near the town of Salfit.

Occupation forces used sound bombs and tear gas against protesters and prevented them from reaching land that is threatened with seizure by Israel in the area of al-Ras, near Salfit.

More than 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and East Jerusalem al-Quds.

Since U.S. President Donald Trump took office in December 2016, Israel has stepped up its settlement expansion activities in defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334, which pronounces settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem al-Quds “a flagrant violation under international law.”

All Israeli settlements are illegal under international law as they are built on occupied land, taken militarily in June 1967.

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