

Over 50,000 Palestinians perform Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa mosque despite harsh Israeli restrictions

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Palestinian Muslim worshipers perform the Friday prayers in front of the Dome of the Rock at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of al-Quds on January 17, 2025. (Photo by AFP)

Al-Quds, January 25 (RHC)-- Tens of thousands of Palestinian worshipers have performed Friday prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque amid tight Israeli restrictions which barred many youths from attending the mosque.

The worshipers held Friday prayers under stringent restrictions imposed by the Israeli regime, limiting access to the holy site. The Jordan-run Islamic Waqf Department and Al-Aqsa Mosque Affairs Department announced that approximately 50,000 worshipers attended prayers in the mosque's courtyards.

According to local sources, Israeli forces, increased their presence at key gates to the mosque, particularly at Damascus and Lions' Gates, stopped many worshipers and subjected them to identification checks.

The forces barred young men from entering the mosque's courtyards, compelling some worshipers to perform Friday prayers in the streets near Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Israeli forces imposed harsh restrictions on worshipers from the occupied West Bank, denying thousands entry to al-Quds without special Israeli-issued permits to cross the military checkpoints encircling the city.

The Israeli regime is pursuing a policy which effectively barred countless Palestinians from practicing their right to worship at one of Islam's holiest sites. The occupation forces, however, allow illegal settlers and officials to storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and perform Talmudic rituals in violation of prior agreements.

The Israeli forces have installed checkpoints and iron gates at the entrances to Palestinian towns and villages since the Gaza ceasefire went into effect last Sunday.

According to the Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission, the Israeli regime has installed 898 military checkpoints and iron gates in the West Bank, including 18 iron gates set up since the beginning of 2025 and 146 others installed after October 7, 2023.

The restrictions come amid resumed deadly Israeli military operation in Jenin, north of the occupied West Bank.

[SOURCE: PRESS TV and NEWS AGENCIES]

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