

Israel orders forced displacement of Palestinians in Nur Shams refugee camp

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Mourners attend the funeral of Abdullah al-Froukh, 19, in the village of Saair, near al-Khalil in the occupied West Bank, after he was killed by Israeli forces. (Photo: AFP)

Ramallah, February 17 (RHC)-- Israel has ordered the immediate evacuation of Palestinian residents from the Nur Shams refugee camp in the northern part of the occupied West Bank as the regime escalates its military offensive.

The military raids in the city of Tulkarm and its camps, including Nur Shams, have entered the 17th consecutive day. The Nur Shams refugee camp had been under Israeli siege for at least four days. On Wednesday, the Israeli regime ordered the evacuation of the residents.

Eyewitnesses reported that “occupation forces stormed a mosque in the camp and used loudspeakers to call on residents to leave, as the camp has been under attack for the past four days.”

Israeli forces deployed foot soldiers, military vehicles, and sound bombs at the camp’s alleyways and entrances. They repeatedly fired live bullets and sound bombs to create fear and panic among the refugees.

The refugees described the situation as “extremely difficult, with homes and shops destroyed, streets leveled, and soldiers brutally raiding homes, and breaking furniture.”

Israeli forces “assaulted young men, expelled the elderly without letting them take basic items like clothing, and confiscated mobile phones,” the refugees said.

According to the Media Office of the Nur Shams Camp Services Committee, “thousands of displaced people, including women, children, the elderly, and the sick, have fled the camp.”

The Israeli military operations in the occupied West Bank are marked by widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and property, arrests, and forced displacement of thousands of refugees.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) reported on Tuesday that the operations in the occupied West Bank have led to the forced displacement of at least 40,000 refugees from the Jenin, Tulkarm, Nur Shams, and Al-Far’a camps.

Since January 15th, when the Israeli regime reached a ceasefire agreement with Palestinian resistance groups, it has increased its heinous actions in the occupied West Bank, including destroying civilian infrastructure, houses and refugee camps.

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