

## **UPDATE: Israel Suppresses Pro-al-Aqsa Rallies across West Bank**

Date : 21/9/2015 Time : 16:03

---

WEST BANK, September 21, 2015 (Wafa) – Dozens of Palestinians, including school students, were injured as Israeli forces suppressed a number of protests that set out across the West Bank in condemnation of Israel's recent escalations at al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, according to local and medical sources.

Palestinians, including students, took to the streets on Monday following calls by the Palestinian teacher union to hold peaceful rallies to protest the ongoing Israeli aggression on al-Aqsa mosque and worshipers.

There has been growing tension across the West Bank and Jerusalem in recent days due to provocative raids by Jewish fanatics into al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Israel has been enforcing a unilateral temporal division on the mosque; banning Palestinians from entering the compound during specific hours, while settlers are provided with a police escort into the Islamic holy site.

In Bethlehem, Israeli soldiers used teargas canisters, stun grenades and rubber-coated steel bullets toward Palestinians who rallied in support of al-Aqsa mosque in light of recent Israeli police attacks on the mosque compound and worshipers to enforce a unilateral division between Muslims and Jews. Several suffocation cases were reported.

In Hebron, A Palestinian was shot with live ammunition, while others sustained injuries by rubber-coated steel bullets as Israeli forces violently suppressed similar rallies across Hebron.

Ayman Aby Ayyash, 17, was shot in the foot with a live bullet, whereas two other Palestinians, whose identities remains unidentified, sustained rubber bullet wounds during clashes that erupted in the Hebron's town of Beit Ummar. They were both treated at the scene, while Ayyash's injury necessitated his transfer to hospital.

Security sources told Wafa that clashes also broke out between forces and Palestinians in other locations across Hebron, as forces suppressed similar rallies in support of al-Aqsa.

Forces crushed a rally organized in Bab al-Zawyeh area, town of Bani Na'im, and Halhoul bridge, where many students suffocated due to inhaling tear gas fired at them by Israeli army.

Meanwhile, Israeli army cracked down on a protest near Ofer prison, west of Ramallah, and attacked the protesters with rubber-coated steel bullets, stun grenades and teargas canisters, causing several suffocation cases among Palestinians.

The protesters, in return, threw stones towards the Israeli soldiers stationed there.

Similar rallies in support of Jerusalem and al-Aqsa Mosque were also organized in Jenin district, in northern West Bank, but there were no reports of clashes with the Israeli military.

In the meantime, thousands of Palestinian students took to the streets in the Arab town of Sakhnin, in Galilee region, in protest of the Israeli escalations at al-Aqsa Mosque and Jerusalem. The students chanted slogans in support of al-Aqsa and waved the Palestinian flag.

The protesting students in Sakhnin also expressed their willingness to embark on a long-term strike in protest of the Israeli assaults against Palestinians worshipers in al-Aqsa.

M.N./T.R.