INTERNATIONAL

# 10 Palestinians killed, dozens shot in raid

**Agence France Presse**
*Nablus, February 22*

Israeli troops killed 10 Palestinians today in a raid on the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, while more than 80 suffered gunshot wounds, the Palestinian health ministry said.

The Israeli army said the raid targeted militant suspects "in a hideout apartment" accused of shootings in the West Bank, and that its troops came under live fire but suffered no casualties.

Top Palestinian official Hussein Al Sheikh decried the incursion as a "massacre" and called for "international protection for our people".

The death toll is equal to that of an Israeli army raid last month in Jenin, further north, which was the deadliest West Bank operation since at least 2005.

The Israeli military said that all three targeted suspects in the Nablus operation were "neutralised", either while fleeing the building or in an "exchange of fire".

"Armed suspects shot heavily toward the forces, who responded with live fire," said the military, adding that rocks, explosive devices and Molotov cocktails were thrown at the troops.

The Palestinian health ministry said those killed "as a result of the occupation's aggression on Nablus" were aged between 16 and 72.

A further 82 people were admitted to multiple hospitals with gunshot wounds, Palestinian health officials said.

Huge crowds gathered outside Nablus's Rafidia hospital, waiting for news of dozens of casualties being treated at the facility.

The wounded include Palestine TV journalist Mohammed Al Khatib, who was shot in the hand, his colleague told AFP.

The Islamic Jihad militant group said one of its commanders was killed "in a heroic battle against the Israeli occupation army and its special forces".

The Lions' Den, a local band of fighters, said six of those killed were militants from various factions.

Troops withdrew from the city after three hours, an AFP journalist said.

The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said its medics had treated 250 cases of tear gas inhalation and dozens of gunshot wounds.

The Arab League said the raid amounted to a "heinous crime".

"The occupation authorities and the far-right Israeli government are responsible for this horrible massacre," said Saeed Abu Ali, the Arab League's assistant secretary-general for Palestinian affairs.

The latest deadly Israeli incursion follows an appeal by the United Nations Middle East peace envoy, Tor Wennesland, for the violence to be halted as an "urgent priority".

"We have seen ominous signs of what awaits if we fail to address the current instability," he told the UN Security Council on Monday.

Since the start of this year, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has claimed the lives of 59 Palestinian adults and children, including militants and civilians.

Nine Israeli civilians, including three children, one Ukrainian civilian and a police officer have been killed over the same period, according to an AFP tally based on official sources from both sides.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke Saturday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and separately with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, calling both to "restore calm".

Last month's visit by Washington's top envoy to Israel and the Palestinian territories has been followed by further violence and rifts between officials.

Israel has occupied the Palestinian territory since the Six-Day War of 1967. Last year was the deadliest year in the territory since the United Nations started tracking casualties in 2005.

# Ex-IS bride loses appeal to restore her UK citizenship

**Associated Press**
*London, February 22*

A British woman whose UK citizenship was revoked after she travelled to Syria to join the Islamic State group has lost an appeal in her fight to restore her citizenship.

Shamima Begum, now 23, was 15 years old when she and two other girls from London joined the extremist group in February 2015. Authorities withdrew her British citizenship on national security grounds soon after she surfaced in a Syrian refugee camp in 2019.

The Special Immigration Appeals Commission, a tribunal which hears challenges to decisions to remove someone's British citizenship on national security grounds, ruled there was a "credible suspicion" that Begum was trafficked to Syria for "sexual exploitation." It said there also were "arguable breaches of duty" by state bodies in allowing her to travel to the country.

But Judge Robert Jay said that evidence was "insufficient" for Begum to win the argument that the deprivation of her British citizenship failed to respect her human rights. Given that she remains in Syria, UK authorities are not compelled to facilitate her return, the judge said.

"Reasonable people will differ as to the threat she posed in February 2019 to the national security of the United Kingdom, and as to how that threat should be balanced against all countervailing considerations," Jay said in delivering the decision of the tribunal.

"However, under our constitutional settlement, these sensitive issues are for the secretary of state to evaluate and not for the commission."

Begum had challenged the action of Sajid Javid, the UK's home secretary at the time, arguing that it left her stateless and that she should have been treated as a child trafficking victim, not a security risk.

The British government claimed she could seek a Bangladeshi passport based on family ties.

But Begum's family argued that she was from the UK and never held a Bangladeshi passport.

Javid expressed satisfaction with the decision.

"This is a complex case, but home secretaries should have the power to prevent anyone entering our country who is assessed to pose a threat to it," he said.

The immigration tribunal held a hearing in November on Begum's appeal.

The case threw into sharp relief the larger question of how Western societies deal with people who joined IS but want to go back to their home countries. Many remain in camps in northeast Syria.

Begum fled east London with two friends to marry IS fighters in Syria at a time when the group's online recruitment program lured many impressionable young people to its self-proclaimed caliphate.

Begum married a Dutch man fighting for IS and had three children, all of whom died.

But her apparent lack of remorse in interviews soon after she surfaced in the refugee camp triggered criticism in Britain.

Her tone has changed since then as she reflected on her actions and fought to return home.

# Biden says Russia treaty suspension 'big mistake'

**Agence France Presse**
*Warsaw, February 22*

US President Joe Biden today said Russia's decision to suspend a nuclear arms reduction treaty with Washington was a "big mistake".

He spoke a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the suspension of Moscow's participation in the New START arms treaty.

Biden made the brief comment in Warsaw ahead of a meeting with the leaders of several countries on NATO's eastern flank to discuss support for war-torn Ukraine.

When a journalist asked for a reaction to Russia's decision, Biden at first joked that he didn't "have time".

Then, after a pause, he said: "big mistake".

New START, the last nuclear arms control pact between Russia and the United States, commits them to limiting their stockpile of nuclear warheads.

Following Putin's announcement, Russian lawmakers today unanimously approved the suspension of Moscow's participation in the treaty.

Russia's foreign ministry said it would still comply with the treaty until it expired in early 2026.

Russia's decision to suspend the treaty was "reversible" — but Washington "must show political will", it added.

Yesterday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called Russia's decision "deeply unfortunate and irresponsible" but said Washington was still willing to talk about the issue.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Russia's move meant that "the whole arms control architecture has been dismantled".

AP

**President Joe Biden arriving to deliver a speech marking the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, at the Royal Castle Gardens, in Warsaw, on Tuesday.**

# Committee says 305 nominated for 2023 Nobel Peace Prize

**Associated Press**
*Copenhagen, February 22*

The Norwegian Nobel Committee said today that 305 candidates were nominated for the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize by the February 1 deadline, the lowest number in four years. The names of the 212 individuals and 93 organisations were not released, in accordance with committee practice.

The Oslo-based organisation said there was a decrease from last year's 343 candidates, and that it was the lowest number of registered candidates since 2019. Over the last eight years, the number of annual candidates has exceeded 300, it said, adding that the provisional record was set in 2016 with 376.

"Who nominates, and who is nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize is a secret for 50 years," the very secretive board in Oslo said in a statement.

A vast group of people can submit a nomination for the prize: heads of state or politicians serving at a national level, university professors, directors of foreign policy institutes, past Nobel Prize recipients and members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

However, those doing the nominating may choose to make it public, raising publicity both for the nominee and the proposer.

Norwegian lawmaker Lan Marie Nguyen Berg of the Green Party nominated two climate activists, Greta Thunberg of Sweden and Ugandan Vanessa Nakate, "for enormous mobilisation" in their continents.

Thunberg has been nominated four times, including last year when the prize went to human rights activists from Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

The 2022 award was a strong rebuke to Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine ruptured decades of nearly uninterrupted peace in Europe, and to the Belarusian president, his authoritarian ally.

On Feb. 1, the director of the Peace Research Institute Oslo, Henrik Urdal, shortlisted human rights activists as his favourites to win the 2023 award. They included Narges Mohammadi, an Iranian human rights activist and Mahbouba Seraj, an Afghan women's rights activist; Myanmar's representative to the United Nations, Kyaw Moe Tun; and the Netherlands-based International Court of Justice, among others. Urdal noted that 2023 was the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and that his list "reflects a timely and worthy focus on human rights defenders and activists."

The Nobel Peace Prize is handed out in the Norwegian capital, Oslo, while the other awards are presented in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, in line with prize founder Alfred Nobel's wishes.

Five Nobel Prizes were established under the terms of Nobel's will. A sixth, for economics, was created by the Central Bank of Sweden in 1968 as a memorial to Nobel. The winners will be announced in early October.

# Pakistani ex-PM Khan's supporters rally, taunt police

**Associated Press**
*Lahore, February 22*

Hundreds of supporters of Pakistan's former prime minister today defied a ban on rallies in a commercial area of the city of Lahore, taunting police and asking to be arrested en masse.

The protest is part of Imran Khan's latest campaign dubbed "fill the jail cells" with detainees — or "jail bharo" in Urdu — as a way to pressure the administration into holding early elections.

But as the rally by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf opposition party got under way in Lahore, police made no move to detain Khan's supporters.

At that point, several protesters barged into a police van parked nearby, demanding they be taken into custody. Police officers at the scene insisted they were not going to arrest them.

Khan last week called on his party and supporters to invite the police to arrest them in Lahore, the capital of the eastern Punjab province, where the former prime minister has a strong following.

Lahore is also the home city of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, who replaced Khan after a no-confidence in the parliament last April. Since then, Khan — who has claimed his ouster was a conspiracy by Sharif and Washington — has been seeking early elections.

The United States and Sharif's government have denied any conspiracy and the prime minister has rejected calls for early elections. The vote, Sharif has said, would be held as planned later this year.

"This so-called jail bharo campaign by Imran Khan is just a political stunt and nothing else," Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb told reporters. She said Khan himself was safe from arrest after getting a preemptive bail order from a court in Lahore days ago, which enables him to avoid arrest.

"He should voluntarily offer his arrest instead of asking his supporters to fill the jails," Aurangzeb added.

Khan, a former cricket star turned Islamist politician, was not at the rally even though it was taking place in his hometown. He was wounded in the leg in a gun attack while leading a rally toward the capital, Islamabad, last November. One of Khan's supporters was killed and several others were wounded in the attack.

Since then, Khan has led the anti-government campaign from his home.

Earlier today, Asad Omar, a senior leader from Khan's party, addressed the rally in Lahore, saying Khan's supporters were going to jail "to get real freedom."

A local TV later broadcast footage of Omar, and Shah Mahmood Qureshi, another senior leader from Khan's party, climbing into a police van and making victory signs and posing for photographers. Police asked them not to sit inside the van.

Police said the opposition politicians wanted to force the police van to take them to the city's jail, where no one can be held without being arrested.

In October, Pakistan's elections commission disqualified Khan from holding public office for five years after finding he had unlawfully sold state gifts and concealed assets as premier. Khan denies the charge and has filed a motion with a court to challenge the commission.

In January, provincial lawmakers from Khan's party dissolved two legislatures — in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces — where the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had majority seats, in a failed attempt to force early federal elections.


बरियारपट्टी गाउँपालिका
गाउँ कार्यपालिकाको कार्यालय
बरियारपट्टी, सिरहा
मधेश, प्रदेश, नेपाल

**बिद्युतिय बोलपत्र आह्वानको सूचना**

(प्रकाशित मिति :- २७७५/११/११ गते)

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