

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	972
Land:	Gaza-Vestbredden
Kilde:	United Nations News
Titel:	East Jerusalem: Forced shutdown of UN clinic signals escalating disregard for international law
Udgivet:	14. januar 2026
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	20. januar 2026

UN News

Global perspective Human stories

AUDIO HUB 🎧 SUBSCRIBE ✉

East Jerusalem: Forced shutdown of UN clinic signals escalating disregard for international law



UNRWA | UNRWA Headquarters in East Jerusalem

14 January 2026 | **Humanitarian Aid**

The temporary closure of a UN-run health centre in East Jerusalem is the latest phase in “a pattern of deliberate disregard” for international law, the head of the UN agency that assists Palestine refugees, UNRWA, said on Wednesday.

Israeli forces stormed the [UNRWA](#) -operated health centre on Monday and ordered it to close for 30 days. They also demanded the removal of UN signage.

Furthermore, water and electricity supply to multiple UNRWA facilities are scheduled to be cut off in the coming weeks, affecting schools, health centres and other critical buildings.

Legislative campaign

The development marks “a new step in a pattern of deliberate disregard for international law and the United Nations,” UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini [tweeted](#) .

“This is a direct result of legislation passed by the Israeli parliament in December, which stepped up existing anti-UNRWA laws adopted in 2024,” he added.

The UNRWA Jerusalem Health Centre serves hundreds of Palestine refugee patients every day, agency spokesperson Jonathan Fowler told *UN News*.

“For most of them, it’s their only possibility of having access to primary healthcare,” he said. “So, there’s a right to health involved in this.”

He stressed that UNRWA facilities are United Nations premises, which are protected under international law, and this applies across the globe.



‘An anti-humanitarian gesture’

Mr. Fowler described the impending water and power shutdown as “kind of an anti-humanitarian gesture in many ways,” saying “it’s particularly shocking.”

He recalled that in October, the [International Court of Justice](#) (ICJ) “restated in crystal clear fashion that **the State of Israel is obliged under international law to facilitate UNRWA’s operations, not hinder or prevent them.** And yet this continues.”

He also warned of the potential wider consequences.

“These are disgraceful moves. And it’s very, very important that there be global awareness about what’s going on, because this is much more than directly in East Jerusalem,” he said.

“It goes beyond even UNRWA. **This is something which potentially has global implications because of this pattern of disregard for international law.**”

◆ Receive daily updates directly in your inbox - [Subscribe here](#) to a topic.

◆ Download the UN News app for your [iOS](#) or [Android](#) devices.

EAST JERUSALEM

RELATED STORIES



UN strongly condemns Israel’s unauthorised entry of UNRWA compound in East Jerusalem



UNRWA staff ‘not going anywhere’ despite forced closure of East Jerusalem compound



Humanitarians must be able to deliver aid in Gaza, UN agencies insist

NEWS TRACKER: PAST STORIES ON THIS ISSUE



West Bank: UN report warns of ‘systematic asphyxiation’ of Palestinian rights

7 January 2026 | **Human Rights**

A sweeping UN human rights report released on Wednesday concludes that in the occupied West Bank, Israel is violating international law prohibiting racial segregation and apartheid, warning that the discriminatory practices have accelerated dramatically since late 2022 amid growing violence, repression and impunity.

RESOURCES



SPOKESPERSON'S OFFICE



SECRETARY-GENERAL



FIND US



[A-Z SITE INDEX](#) | [COPYRIGHT](#) | [FAQ](#) | [FRAUD ALERT](#) |

[PRIVACY NOTICE](#) | [TERMS OF USE](#)



[Donate](#)

