



*The traditional market in the old city of East Jerusalem is typically bustling with locals, pilgrims, and tourists. However, today, it resembles a deserted ghost town.*

**‘Operation Al-Aqsa Flood’ and ‘Operation Swords of Iron’  
Escalation in the Gaza Strip and Israel Statement #2**

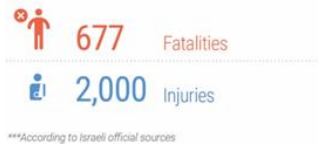
**HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW  
PALESTINIAN CASUALTIES**



The situation is critical for civilians on both sides. The Israeli military is in the process of evacuating at least five towns near Gaza, and according to the U.N., over 123,000 Gazans have been displaced due to the ongoing conflict.

Some of Caritas Jerusalem’s staff members are among those displaced. One family sought refuge in The Holy Family Church in Gaza, another found shelter in a UNRWA school, but unfortunately, their home was completely destroyed. Additionally, a different family moved in with a relative, whose house has also been entirely demolished.

**ISRAELI CASUALTIES\*\*\***



Caritas Jerusalem has launched the Gaza Staff Support System, referred to as 'Together Putting Love into Action' (TPLA). This initiative is dedicated to providing vital assistance and solidarity to colleagues based in Gaza who are grappling with extremely challenging and complex circumstances. The primary aim is to foster a strong sense of unity and emotional support within Caritas Jerusalem, recognizing the forthcoming nights in Gaza will be especially demanding.

Presently, the staff at HQ Jerusalem and the West Bank are working from home to be with their families and offer them the necessary support. All educational institutions and recreational facilities in Jerusalem are closed, along with the closure of West Bank checkpoints. For safety reasons, all Caritas Jerusalem operations in the field have been suspended.

Our immediate focus is on the well-being of our staff. We ask for your prayers for peace and safety, and we invite you to stand with us in our appeal for a just and enduring peace in The Holy Land.

End.

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, sg 276-10/23