



Security Agreement Reached in Jenin

January 19, 2025

OVERVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT

The Palestinian Authority (PA) has reached an agreement to conclude its security operation in the northern West Bank town of Jenin. The operation, which commenced last month (December 2024), aimed to reassert PA control over the city, particularly targeting armed groups entrenched within the Jenin refugee camp.

Palestinian Armed Forces (PAF) have now been deployed inside the camp, marking a significant development in the region's security landscape. This move is part of the PA's broader strategy to curb the influence of militant factions and restore order to an area long considered a stronghold for armed resistance.

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION

Despite the agreement's provisions, the implementation process faces significant challenges. Deep-seated mistrust between the PA and militant groups, such as the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), has led to their refusal to comply with disarmament, with PIJ accusing the PA of aligning with Israeli interests, further complicating enforcement efforts.

Community resistance within the Jenin refugee camp adds to the challenges, as many residents see the PA's security efforts as an infringement on their autonomy, potentially leading to unrest and clashes that could undermine the agreement. The presence of multiple armed factions with differing agendas further complicates enforcement, with some groups refusing to comply and others leveraging the situation for political gain, increasing the risk of localized confrontations.

External factors, including potential Israeli intervention if PA actions are deemed inadequate, and international pressure to maintain security without excessive force, also hinder implementation. Additionally, ongoing arms smuggling through porous borders continues to undermine disarmament efforts by allowing militants to replenish their stockpiles.

Internal political rivalries within Palestinian leadership, particularly between factions such as Fatah and Hamas, further obstruct a cohesive security strategy, complicating the PA's ability to enforce the agreement effectively.

SECURITY IMPACT ON THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK

The developments in Jenin have broader security implications for the entire occupied West Bank. Jenin has long been viewed as a flashpoint of resistance and militancy, and any significant security shifts in the city could trigger ripple effects across other areas. The PA's ability to enforce control in Jenin will serve as a key indicator of its capacity to implement security policies in other restive governorates, such as Nablus and Hebron, where armed groups also maintain a strong presence.

Failure to fully implement the agreement or a resurgence of violence could embolden militant factions elsewhere in the West Bank, potentially leading to a coordinated escalation of resistance activities. Armed groups may use the situation in Jenin to rally support and expand their influence, undermining the PA's broader authority across the region. Additionally, public perception of the PA's security cooperation with Israel could spark widespread protests and civil unrest in multiple West Bank cities, further destabilizing the region.

From an Israeli security perspective, the situation in Jenin could impact border security and internal operations. An uptick in violence may prompt Israeli forces to increase military incursions into PA-controlled areas, leading to heightened tensions and undermining existing coordination mechanisms. Furthermore, international stakeholders and regional actors may intervene diplomatically or militarily if instability in the West Bank reaches a critical level, affecting the security dynamics throughout the occupied West Bank.



PROJECTED THREATS AND SECURITY RISKS

- The agreement faces several threats that could compromise its success and lead to further instability in Jenin and the broader West Bank. One of the most immediate threats is the potential for armed resistance and clashes with factions such as PIJ, who have rejected disarmament. These confrontations could escalate quickly, resulting in significant casualties and destabilizing the occupied West Bank further.
- Another critical threat is the possibility of militant retaliation. Armed groups may target PA security personnel, government infrastructure, or civilians perceived to be cooperating with the authorities. Such attacks could undermine public confidence in the PA's ability to maintain security and fuel further resistance.
- There is also a heightened risk of expanding terrorist activities beyond Jenin. If the PA fails to enforce security, militant groups may extend their operations to other parts of the West Bank, challenging the PA's authority in cities such as Nablus and Hebron. This could lead to widespread unrest and complicate security efforts.
- Public unrest and civil disobedience are also potential risks. If residents perceive the PA's actions as oppressive or aligned with Israeli interests, mass protests and riots could erupt, further straining the PA's resources and diverting attention from disarmament efforts.
- The threat of Israeli military intervention is another key concern. If the PA is unable to control the security situation effectively, Israeli forces may intervene, leading to an escalation of tensions and potentially undermining the PA's authority in the eyes of the Palestinian public.
- Radicalization among Jenin's youth is a growing concern, as prolonged instability and security operations could push disaffected individuals toward militant groups. Armed factions could exploit grievances to recruit new members, further entrenching their presence in the direct and surrounding areas.
- Coordinated attacks from other parts of the West Bank could also emerge in solidarity with militants in Jenin, stretching the PA's security forces thin and creating a larger-scale crisis. Additionally, economic instability resulting from ongoing violence could further erode trust in the PA and exacerbate tensions within the community.
- Finally, infiltration by external actors presents a looming threat. Foreign-backed extremist elements could exploit the security vacuum to introduce advanced weaponry and escalate the conflict beyond the current scope. The formation of splinter factions within Jenin also poses a long-term risk, as smaller, less organized groups may pursue independent agendas that further complicate the security landscape and threat environment.

STAKEHOLDERS AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

The ongoing tensions between the PA and militant factions highlight the complexity of the political and security landscape in the West Bank. While the PA seeks to demonstrate its capacity to govern and enforce law and order, factions like PIJ perceive these operations as an existential threat to their resistance activities. Additionally, the PA's perceived cooperation with Israel has drawn criticism from within Palestinian political circles, further polarizing the situation. Regionally, neighbouring countries and international stakeholders are closely observing developments in Jenin, recognizing its potential to influence the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict further.

KEY INSIGHTS

The deployment of PAF in Jenin is a crucial step in the PA's efforts to regain control; however, it faces substantial resistance from entrenched militant factions. The PA's actions risk exacerbating political divisions and undermining its legitimacy among certain segments of the Palestinian population.

Despite the agreement, the long-term success of this operation will depend on the PA's ability to balance enforcement with political negotiation, ensuring that it can maintain order without triggering further violence. Moreover, the evolving security situation in Jenin has the potential to influence broader West Bank dynamics and Israeli security policies.



CONCLUSION AND GENERAL ADVISORY

The security agreement in Jenin represents a crucial effort by the PA to establish control over a highly volatile area. However, the ongoing refusal of militant groups to disarm, coupled with the potential for violent escalation, presents significant challenges to the stability of the occupied West Bank. The long-term success of this operation will depend on strategic enforcement, sustained diplomatic engagement, and a comprehensive approach that addresses the underlying grievances of local factions. Without these critical measures, the risk of renewed violence and broader regional repercussions remains considerable.

SARI Global advises our partners to adopt a proactive and vigilant approach in response to the evolving security dynamics within Jenin and the broader occupied West Bank. The rapidly changing threat environment necessitates a coordinated and adaptive strategy to effectively mitigate risks, protect operational continuity, safeguard organisational assets and provide essential support to affected communities.

To enhance preparedness and response efforts, SARI Global recommends the following strategic actions:

- Foster strong relationships with local communities, civil society organizations, and grassroots networks to establish trust and ensure a responsive approach to emerging needs.
- Conduct regular community engagement exercises to gain insight into evolving concerns and adjust programming accordingly and form a network that will support the establishment of an effective early warning system.
- Continuously assess and update security risk management plans and standard operating procedures reflect the evolving security landscape and ensure staff and asset safety.
- Enhance situational awareness through active monitoring and collaboration with local authorities and security providers. Ensure regular context briefs are provided.
- Develop and implement contingency plans to address potential escalations, including evacuation, relocation and hibernation protocols and operational adjustments.
- Advocate for secure and unhindered humanitarian access to affected areas by working closely with local authorities and relevant stakeholders.
- Strengthen supply chain resilience to mitigate disruptions caused by heightened security constraints.
- Actively participate in humanitarian and other coordination platforms to facilitate information sharing, resource allocation, and best practices for an effective and unified response.
- Engage in local security briefings to stay informed about developments that may impact operations and decision-making.
- Collaborate with partners to align efforts and enhance long-term resilience-building initiatives.
- Advocate for the protection and operational continuity to safeguard the effective delivery of critical services.
- Design flexible contingency plans that can be scaled up or down based on escalation in the security or humanitarian situation.
- Stay informed with exclusive insights, updates, and trends through SARI Global's newsletters and regular reporting.
- Subscribe to SARI Global's interactive dashboard for real-time incident tracking, advanced visualization tools, and comprehensive situational awareness.



SARI Global

Security Agreement Reached in Jenin



SARI Global

ALL DATA AND INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THIS REPORT ARE EITHER PRIMARILY SOURCED THROUGH SARI GLOBAL'S PROPRIETARY RESOURCES OR SECONDARILY OBTAINED THROUGH THE REFERENCED ENTITIES CITED WITHIN THE REPORT.

ANY USE, REPRODUCTION, OR DERIVATION OF THE INFORMATION OR DATA FROM THIS REPORT IS SUBJECT TO COPYRIGHT BY SARI GLOBAL. PROPER ATTRIBUTION MUST BE PROVIDED BY REFERENCING SARI GLOBAL BY NAME AND INCLUDING A DIRECT LINK TO THE REPORT OR THE SARI GLOBAL WEBSITE, ALONG WITH THE DATE THE DATA WAS ACCESSED. FOR EXAMPLE:

SARI GLOBAL, WWW.SARI.GLOBAL, DATE RETRIEVED: MM, DD, YYYY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR PERMISSIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US THROUGH OUR WEBSITE.

CONTACT: INFO@SARI.GLOBAL