



**This morning Israeli operation in Jenin killed 8 people, Caritas Jerusalem's operations in the area are disrupted.
"Operation Bet Vagan"**

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) initiated a significant aerial and ground offensive in the West Bank city of Jenin this morning, marking one of the largest military operations in the Palestinian territories in years. The operation, known as 'Bet Vagan,' resulted in the death of eight people in Jenin. Reports indicate intense exchanges of fire between the forces and local residents, along with recorded violent riots in the area.

Caritas Jerusalem is actively involved in various programs in the Jenin Governorate. During the initial operation on June 19th, Caritas had to postpone activities near the Jenin refugee camp. Despite the turbulent situation on June 20th, the Secretary General of Caritas Jerusalem and the team visited the Jenin area but were forced to leave in the afternoon for their safety.

In collaboration with Caritas Belgium International, Caritas France, and Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Jerusalem is implementing long-term development programs in the Jenin Governorate. Our focus is on promoting microbusiness initiatives to stimulate the local economy and empower youth and women through various initiatives. However, due to safety concerns for both the team and the community, these activities had to be postponed regularly.

We express deep concern for the safety of our staff in the Jenin Governorate and have, therefore, suspended many of the activities in the area. We call on our friends and partners to pray for peace and safety for our team and the people in Jenin and the rest of the West Bank, with the hope that the situation will soon deescalate without further harm to civilians.

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