
Attempted Lynching and Smashed Stores as Jewish-Arab Clashes Spread Across Israel

At least 20 people arrested so far in Lod, and police have since begun clashing with far-right Jewish extremists in the city ■ Riots resume in Lod ■ Jews smash Arab-owned shops in Bat Yam

Bar Peleg

May. 12, 2021

Clashes between Jewish and Arab residents of the central Israeli city of Lod resumed on Wednesday for the third day, with at least 30 people, mostly non-residents, arrested during the violent altercations. Over the last three days, one person was killed and 11 were wounded in the confrontations.

Meanwhile, a mob of right-wing Jews pulled an Arab driver out of his car in the city of Bat Yam and beat him. He was evacuated for medical treatment. Dozens of right-wing activists marched in the city, just south of Tel Aviv, and attacked a number of Arab-owned businesses. The rioters smashed glass windows, threw objects and shouted racist slogans. Police said in a statement that they had stopped an illegal march in Bat Yam by people who sought to go to Jaffa and clash with Arab residents. According to the police, the marchers refused to abide by police instructions and were dispersed with crowd control methods. The police, which was not stationed in the city at all, has opened an investigation. "We will get to each and every one of the lynchers," police sources said. In another part of the city, a police car was torched.

Bat Yam Mayor Tzvika Brot said that the rioters were not residents of the city and that events had been organized by "provocateurs who arrived from outside the city and came here to commit vandalism." He added that police had information about this in advance and deployed in large numbers.

In the northern city of Acre, police instructed Arab owners of stores on the road leading to its old city to shut them in advance of the expected arrival of a group of right-wing extremists. Police said that a group of five Arab protesters assaulted a Jewish passerby with rocks, clubs and metal rods. The man is in serious condition after suffering severe trauma to the head. Emergency medical services are attempting to resuscitate him.



A truck burns at the entrance of the mixed Jewish-Arab city of Lod, today

In the northern Arab city of Tamra a 50-year-old Jewish man, who accidentally entered the city, was assaulted and stabbed in the neck. He was evacuated to hospital in Haifa in a moderate condition.

In Jerusalem, a 25-year-old man has suffered a puncture wound following a fight in the Mahaneh Yehuda market in the city.

The police said they have arrested six far-right activists in Acre who were disturbing the peace and pelting stones at passing cars.

In the city of Tiberias, an Arab driver was attacked and lightly wounded when he accidentally passed through the location where right-wing extremists were marching, police said. A policeman protecting the driver was lightly wounded by a stone that was thrown at them, and four people were arrested, according to the police statement. Riot police were deployed to the scene.



An Arab-owned eatery in Bat Yam surrounded by broken glass, tonight.

The violence in Lod restarted on Wednesday when several Jewish Israelis approached the mourning tent of Moussa Hassouna, who was shot and killed by a Jewish man during riots in the city on Monday. Mutual stone-throwing commenced, and police responded by firing stun grenades to disperse both crowds. At least 20 people were arrested. Police also clashed with far-right Jewish extremists in the city.

Earlier, there were some 200-300 right-wing activists who trying to make their way to the Ramat Eshkol neighborhood of Lod, and are being pursued by police. From the surrounding windows, residents are hurling rocks at the right-wing activists.

In addition, a 42-year-old Arab resident of Lod checked into one of the city's hospitals with moderate gunshot wounds.

Earlier on Wednesday, Israel Police announced the nighttime curfew in the mixed Arab-Jewish city following protests that spilled into attacks and violent clashes between Jews and Arabs on Tuesday night.

The curfew, which was set to go into effect from 8 P.M. until Thursday at 4 A.M., restricts all residents to their homes and bars the entry of non-residents.

Police beefed up forces in the city after a state of emergency was declared. In a statement, police said the unusual measures are meant to “maintain the safety and security of Lod residents and safeguard their property.”

Five hundred Border Police officers have been placed in the city. Residents will be allowed to enter the city only if they are returning from work.

Earlier on Wednesday, President Reuven Rivlin harshly condemned Tuesday's "pogrom" and riots "by an Arab mob," and was critical of what he called "the silence of Arab leaders" in Israel on the events.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the incidents are reminiscent of "sights from our people's past, and we cannot accept that." During a visit in the northern city of Acre, where businesses were torched the night before, he vowed to "stop anarchy" and "bring back sovereignty to Israel's cities with an iron fist if necessary."