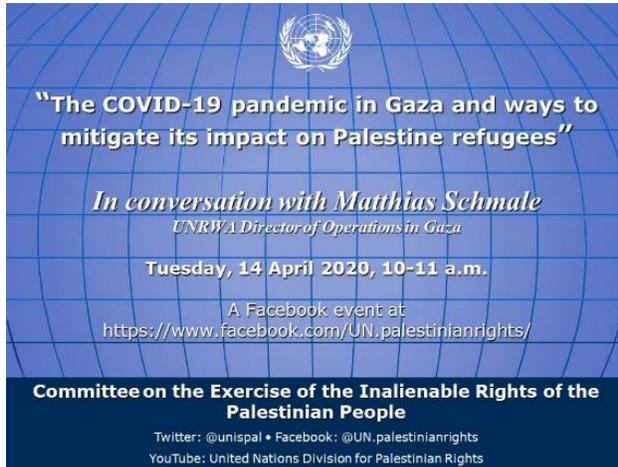




UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Newsletter on Recent and Upcoming Activities  
– No. 4 / April-June 2020 –

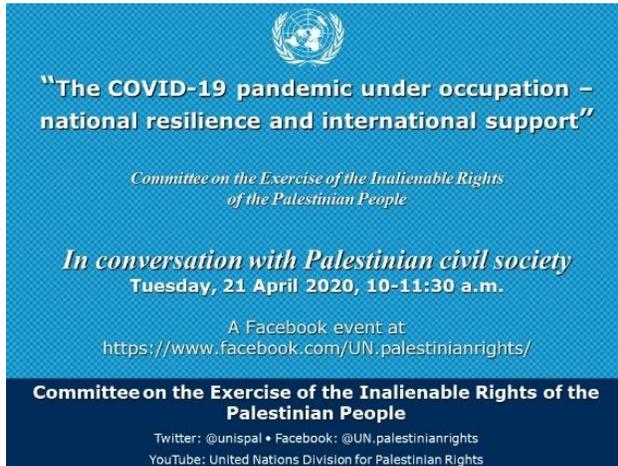
## 1. Virtual conversation with UNRWA on situation of Palestine refugees during the COVID-19 pandemic



On **14 April**, the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Cheikh Niang (Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations in New York), convened a (virtual) conversation with Mr. Matthias Schmale, UNRWA Director of Operations in Gaza, on the topic "The COVID-19 pandemic in Gaza and ways to mitigate its impact on Palestine refugees". The Bureau of the Committee participated in the event, which was livestreamed on the Committee Facebook page.

For more details, documents and video, click [here](#).

## 2. Virtual conversation with Palestinian civil society on situation during COVID-19 pandemic



On **21 April**, the Committee held a virtual conversation with Palestinian civil society representatives on “The COVID-19 pandemic under occupation – national resilience and international support”.

Speakers elaborated on their challenges and restrictions in East Jerusalem, the rest of the West Bank and Gaza and addressed options and strategies for Member States and global civil society to provide continued political and practical support to the Palestinian people.

The event was livestreamed on the Committee

Facebook page.

For more details, documents and video, click [here](#).

### 3. Committee supports capacity building of senior officials from the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



On **22-24 April**, the Committee in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and research (UNITAR) supported the participation of three senior Palestinian Foreign Ministry officials in the online training workshop “Leadership in Crisis”. The interactive class taught essential skills, which will allow leaders to

adapt their leadership strategies to be more flexible vis-à-vis a variety of diverse challenges and respond effectively to crisis situations.

For more details click [here](#).

#### 4. Committee participates in Security Council debate on the situation in the Middle East



On **23 April**, the Security Council held its quarterly debate (virtually) on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question. The Chair of the Palestinian Rights Committee, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, delivered a written statement on behalf of the Committee.

In the unprecedented context of COVID-19, the Committee called on Israel (the occupying Power) to heed the long-standing call for a halt to illegal actions and practices, including all measures aimed at annexation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and, in accordance with its international law obligation, ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population under its control by providing humanitarian access and assistance, so as to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For the Committee statement to the Security Council, click [here](#).

## 5. Committee issues a press statement on annexation as a threat to the two-State solution

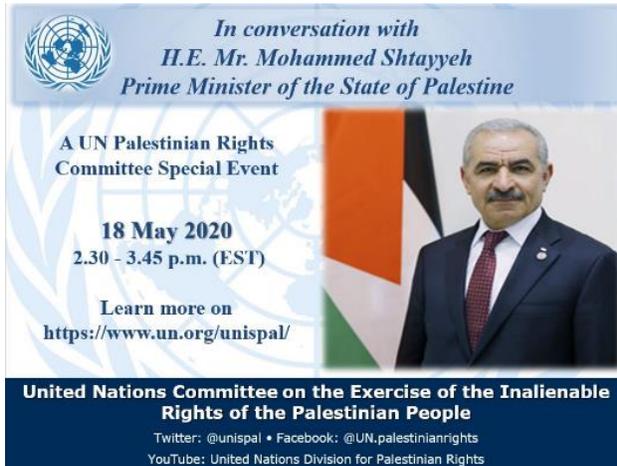


On **5 May**, at the conclusion of a Bureau meeting the Committee issued a press statement affirming that Israel's annexation plans posed a threat to the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders and calling on the international community, particularly the Security Council, to shoulder its responsibilities and take urgent action to counteract the threat of annexation.

The statement also reiterated the Committee's support to and solidarity with the Palestinian people to prevent the annexation in grave breach of international law, and in violation of UN resolutions, including Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) that calls for an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, and the fulfilment of the rights of the Palestinian people, particularly to self-determination and independence. The statement underscored that the UN Charter prohibition on acquisition of territory by force is absolute.

For the press release, click [here](#).

## 6. Committee holds an interactive conversation with the Palestine Prime Minister



At its 400th meeting on **18 May**, the Committee held a virtual interactive conversation with the Prime Minister of the State of Palestine, Mr. Mohammed Shtayyeh, on Israel's plans to annex large areas of the occupied West Bank and other pertinent issues.

An initial presentation by the Prime Minister was followed by comments and questions from Committee Bureau Members. Members and Observers of the Committee and other Member States participated virtually in the meeting, as did a wide audience of representatives of United Nations Funds and Programmes,

intergovernmental and civil society organizations. The event was livestreamed on UN Web TV, the UN YouTube channel, Facebook and Twitter.

For more details, documents and video, click [here](#).

## 7. Committee supports capacity building of female Palestinian Government officials

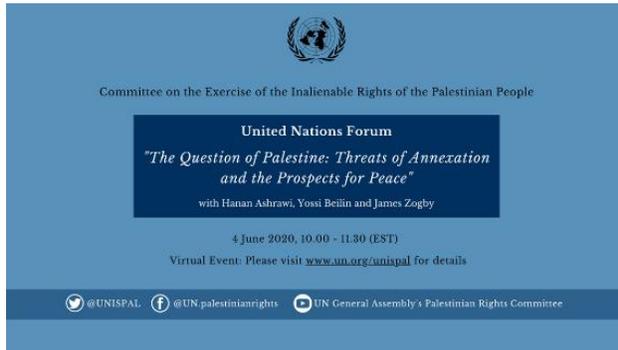


On **18-20 May**, the Committee in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and research (UNITAR) supported the participation of three female Palestinian Government officials – representing the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministries of Health and Justice – in the online workshop “Women’s

Leadership”. This was an opportunity for participants to build essential personal leadership skills and qualities in order to thrive in leadership positions and overcome traditional gender stereotypes.

For more details click [here](#).

## 8. United Nations Forum on the Question of Palestine



On **4 June**, the Committee convened the 2020 United Nations Forum on the Question of Palestine “The Question of Palestine: Threats of Annexation and the Prospects for Peace”.

Three prominent speakers – Ms. Hanan Ashrawi, Member of the PLO Executive Committee and former member of the Palestinian team in the Middle East Peace Process; Mr. Yossi Beilin, Former Israeli Cabinet Minister and participant

in the 1993 Oslo Accord negotiations; Mr. James Zogby, Founder and President of the Arab American Institute – outlined prevailing challenges and formulated recommendations to overcome the current political impasse for salvaging peace prospects.

The event was livestreamed on United Nations TV. For more details, documents and video, click [here](#).

## 9. Committee Chair video message to mark 53 years of occupation of the Palestinian territory



The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Cheikh Niang (Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations in New York), recorded a video message to mark 53 years of occupation of the Palestinian territory, to caution against the threat of annexation by Israel, to reaffirm the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence, and to reconfirm the two-State solution based on international law and UN resolutions as the basis to resolve the question of Palestine. At the end of the message, the Chair endorsed the Committee message in his national capacity.

The message is part of an advocacy campaign by the Negotiations Affairs Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) throughout the month of June, which will include recorded messages by 53 international, Arab and Palestinian personalities. All messages will be posted on the Twitter account of the PLO Negotiations Affairs Department @[nadplo](#) and its [website](#).

For more details and the video message, click [here](#).

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*\* This Newsletter on recent and upcoming activities of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People is produced and distributed on behalf of the Committee by the Division for Palestinian Rights of the United Nations Secretariat.*