

United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

NGO Action News

6 November 2020

Middle East

- On 5 November, the [Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies](#) issued the press release “Civil Society Welcomes Mounting Recognition of Israeli Apartheid at UN Human Rights Council” following a joint submission by a group of 14 Palestinian, regional, and international organizations to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva ahead of its 45th regular session. The organizations called on Member and Observer States to declare and condemn Israel as an apartheid regime and to support the reconstitution of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid and the UN Centre against Apartheid.
- On 5 November, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights \(PCHR\)](#) denounced the Israeli authorities’ ban on import of necessary maintenance parts for Gaza’s hospitals and warned against repercussions on the lives of hundreds of patients. PCHR called on the international community and WHO to compel Israel to allow the entry of medical supplies and equipment necessary for Covid-19 patients’ treatment.
- On 4 November, [B’Tselem](#) issued the press release “In Pandemic, of All Times: Number of Palestinians Israel Has Left Homeless Hits Four-Year Record” to denounce how more Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, lost their homes in the first ten months of 2020 alone than in any full year since 2016 – the highest year on record. B’Tselem reported that Israel tries to justify the demolitions with excuses such as “law enforcement” or “building and planning” considerations, while deliberately creating a reality that leaves Palestinians almost no way to build legally.
- On 2 November, the [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council \(PHROC\)](#) issued a press release to condemn the international community’s silence as the hunger-striking administrative detainee Maher Al-Akhras faces imminent threat to life. PHROC called on the international community and all high contracting parties to the fourth Geneva Convention to fulfil their obligations and for the immediate intervention of the relevant UN Special Procedures mandate holders, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territory Occupied since 1967.
- On 30 November, [Peace Now](#) informed about the Israeli Jerusalem Court’s recent order - in favour of Israeli settlers - to evict another four Palestinian families in Sheikh Jarrah, in occupied East Jerusalem, within 30 days. Peace Now warned that since the beginning of the year, the Israeli courts ordered the evacuation of 22 Palestinian families of 131 people from Sheikh Jarrah and Batan al-Hawa while dozens more families are in various stages of eviction proceedings filed against them by settlers.

- On 29 October, [Addameer – Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#) published the report “Opened – Books on Cuffed – Hands: The Cultural and Education Life of Palestinian Political Prisoners in Israeli Prisons and Detention Centres”. The study aims at exploring the cultural and educational life of Palestinian prisoners, touching on the international legal texts that guarantee the prisoners’ right to education and cultural activities, and explores the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) regulations that only allow for the minimum education of the prisoners, and the politicization of the educational process in prisons.
- On 27 October, [HaMoked – Centre for the Defence of the Individual](#) issued the press release “Following HaMoked’s Petition: The Military Cancels the Quota Set on the Number of Annual Entries to Seam Zone Farmlands” to inform that the Israeli government announced among other things that the limited-entries permit, applying to Palestinian farmers with lands trapped between the Green Line and the Separation, would be cancelled and that the military would soon publish a new set of regulations reflecting this change.

Europe

- On 3 November, the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine \(ECCP\)](#) published the report “Legal Briefing on the EuroAsia Interconnector” on a project aimed at linking electricity grids in Israel, Cyprus and Greece via the world’s longest submarine power cable in which Israel’s grid would incorporate the illegal settlements in the OPT, including East Jerusalem, thus “implicating Europe in Israel’s war crimes.” The briefing assesses whether and how the EU and European States, with their support to the EuroAsia Interconnector, violate their legal obligations in respect to Israel’s illegal settlements in the OPT.

North America

- On 5 November, [J Street](#) issued a press release to denounce the Israeli government’s demolitions in the Palestinian Bedouin community of Homsa al-Baqia in the Jordan Valley, representing a serious violation of international law that destroyed homes, solar panels and other structures and displace 73 people, including over 40 children. J Street said it was vital that the next US administration and Congress take action to clearly condemn and push back on the occupation and ongoing, destructive violations of international law and Palestinian rights, which also clearly and deliberately undermine the prospects for a peaceful, comprehensive solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- On 29 October, the [Columbia University Palestine Studies Centre](#) held the webinar “Human Rights and decolonization in Palestine” with Assistant Professor Lana Tatour, who is currently exploring the contemporary impasse of indigenous resistance to settler colonialism, focusing on Palestinian citizens of Israel.

United Nations

- On 1 and 2 December, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) will observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People for 2020 to commemorate the adoption by the Assembly, on 29 November 1947, of Resolution 181, which provided for the partition of Palestine into two States. The observance is held annually at United Nations Headquarters, the United Nations Offices at Geneva and in Vienna and elsewhere. The event includes an annual debate of the General Assembly on the question of Palestine and special meetings at which statements on the question of Palestine are made by high-level officials of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations and representatives of civil society.
- On 12 November, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) will hold the virtual panel “International Parliamentarians and the Question of Palestine”. The event will be organised as a panel discussion including three parliamentarians – María Arena (European Union), Mandla Mandela (South Africa), Betty McCollum (United States) – to support the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and promote a just resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in peace and security. The event will highlight how efforts within national constituencies have translated into concrete actions at the national and international levels and will identify impediments to moving forward.
- On 30 October, [Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territory Occupied since 1967 Michael Lynk](#) called for accountability as Israel records the highest rate of illegal settlement approvals, and following the Israeli government’s recent announcement that it has approved construction of nearly 5,000 more settlements in the OPT. Michael Lynk stated that the international community must answer this grave breach of international with more than mere criticism, warning that “while Israel may have shelved its plans for de-jure annexation of the settlements in August, it is continuing with its de-facto annexation of the Palestinian territory through its unrelenting settlement growth.”

This newsletter informs about recent and upcoming activities of Civil Society Organizations affiliated with the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights of the UN Secretariat provide the information “as is” without warranty of any kind, and do not accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy, or reliability of the information contained in the websites linked in the newsletter.



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