

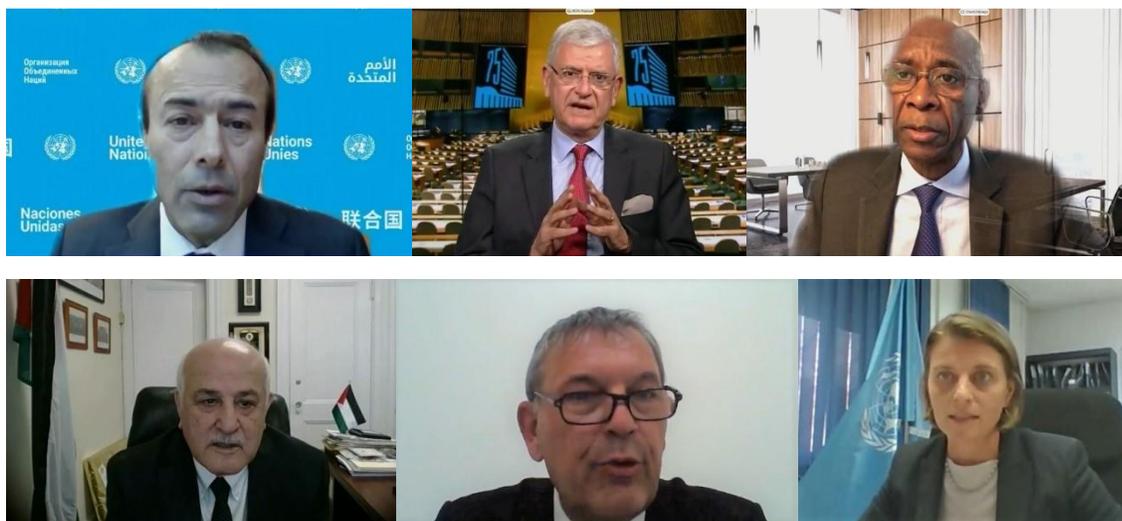


UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People

Newsletter on Recent and Upcoming Activities

– No. 8 / April - June 2021 –

1. Committee virtual event in support of UNRWA



On **7 April**, the Committee organized a virtual event on *“Delivering Critical Assistance for Palestine Refugees: Challenges and Opportunities in a Complex Context”* featuring briefings by Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General, and Ms. Gwyn Lewis, Director of UNRWA Operations West Bank, who also answered questions from the audience. Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, H.E. Mr. Riyad Mansour (State of Palestine) and H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkır, President of the General Assembly made introductory remarks.

The event, which was moderated by the Committee Chair, H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang (Senegal), aimed to strengthen international support for the rights of Palestinian refugees and mobilize political and financial support to UNRWA, ahead and in support of an international UNRWA conference hosted by Sweden and Jordan in the coming months.

The event was livestreamed on UN Web TV. For more details, documents, and video of the event, click [here](#).

2. Bureau Outreach to Member States and Regional Organisations in 2021

As a follow-up to its decision of 18 February 2021, the Bureau of the Committee continued its outreach to New York-based Permanent Representatives of Member States – including members of the Middle East Quartet, the P5 and the E10 Members of the Security Council – to exchange ideas on ways to reinvigorate and support international efforts on the resumption of the Middle East Peace Process. Bureau delegations headed by the Chair H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang held meetings with Permanent Missions of **France (26 April)**, **Ireland (12 May)** and **Mexico (30 June)**. Additional outreach meetings are planned in the coming months.

3. Committee Bureau meets with the President of the Security Council and issues a press statement

On **28 April**, the Chair of the Committee and the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine met with the President of the Security Council (Viet Nam). The Chair expressed concern at the impact of the occupation on the conduct of Palestinian elections and thanked the President for Viet Nam's unwavering support for a peaceful resolution of the question of Palestine. The President of the Security Council assured the Chair and the Palestinian Observer that he was engaging bilaterally with members of the Security Council on developments related to the question of Palestine. In a press statement issued following the meeting, the Committee underlined that "democratic elections are a crucial factor for the full realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and for a just solution to the question of Palestine." Click [here](#) for full text of the statement.

4. Bureau of CEIRPP calls for Security Council action on Palestinian elections in East Jerusalem and issued a press statement

On **28 April**, the Bureau sent a letter to the President of the Security Council on behalf of the Committee, asking to ensure that Israel comply with its obligations and allow unhindered elections in East Jerusalem. The request followed the failure by Israel, as the occupying Power, to guarantee that it would not hamper elections in East Jerusalem. The Palestinian Government subsequently decided to cancel the legislative and presidential elections in the entire Occupied Palestinian Territory scheduled for 23 May and 31 July, respectively. The Committee also issued a press statement on its concerns and calling for Security Council action. Click [here](#) for text of the press statement.

5. Press statement by CEIRPP on the escalation of violence in Gaza and Israel

On **10 May**, the Bureau, on behalf of the Committee, issued a press statement expressing its grave concern at the violence at Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and condemning the acts against worshippers and of provocation, incitement, and inflammatory rhetoric. It further expressed alarm at Israel's escalation in the Gaza Strip and the firing of rockets by Palestinian militants and called on all indiscriminate attacks against civilians to stop. The Bureau also expressed its deep concern about the imminent evictions of Palestinian families from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan neighbourhoods in occupied East Jerusalem and called on the Security Council to uphold its resolutions on the question of Palestine. Click [here](#) for full text of the statement.

6. 2021 UN Forum with International Parliamentarians on the Question of Palestine



On **18 May**, the Committee held the annual UN Forum under the theme *“International Parliamentary Support to the Question of Palestine”* as an interactive discussion with parliamentarians from different countries. Speakers included Mr. Alexandre Boulerice (Canada), Mr. Francisco Chahuán (Chile), Ms. Julie Elliott (UK), Mr. Hubert Julien-Laferrrière (France) and Mr. Solomon Lechesa Tsenoli (South Africa).

The Forum aimed to strengthen international efforts to resolve the question of Palestine based on international law and relevant UN resolutions and focused on parliamentary support on: (1) the full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), including through incorporation of its requirements into national legislation; and (2) the revival of multilateral efforts for a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

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

7. Chair addresses General Assembly plenary on the situation in the Middle East



On **20 May**, the Chair of the Committee addressed the General Assembly formal plenary convened under Agenda Items 37 (The situation in the Middle East) and 38 (The Question of Palestine) in the context of the deteriorating situation in Palestine and Israel. He welcomed the ceasefire agreed by Israel and Palestine and called on Israel, the occupying Power, and the international community to ensure that the rights of the Palestinian people are respected and upheld, including the inalienable right to live in freedom and dignity in an independent and sovereign State. The Committee called on Member States who have not yet done so, to urgently consider recognition of the State of Palestine. Click [here](#) for full text of the statement.

8. Completion of UNISPAL migration to upgraded technology platform

On **7 June**, the Division for Palestinian Rights completed the multi-year project involving the migration of the [UN Information System on the question of Palestine \(UNISPAL\)](#) - nearly 40,000 documents - to an upgraded platform to enable enhanced search with a user-friendly interface. The Division continues to work on advanced technologies to improve user experience of UNISPAL to access the vast content and information on the question of Palestine.

9. 2021 International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem

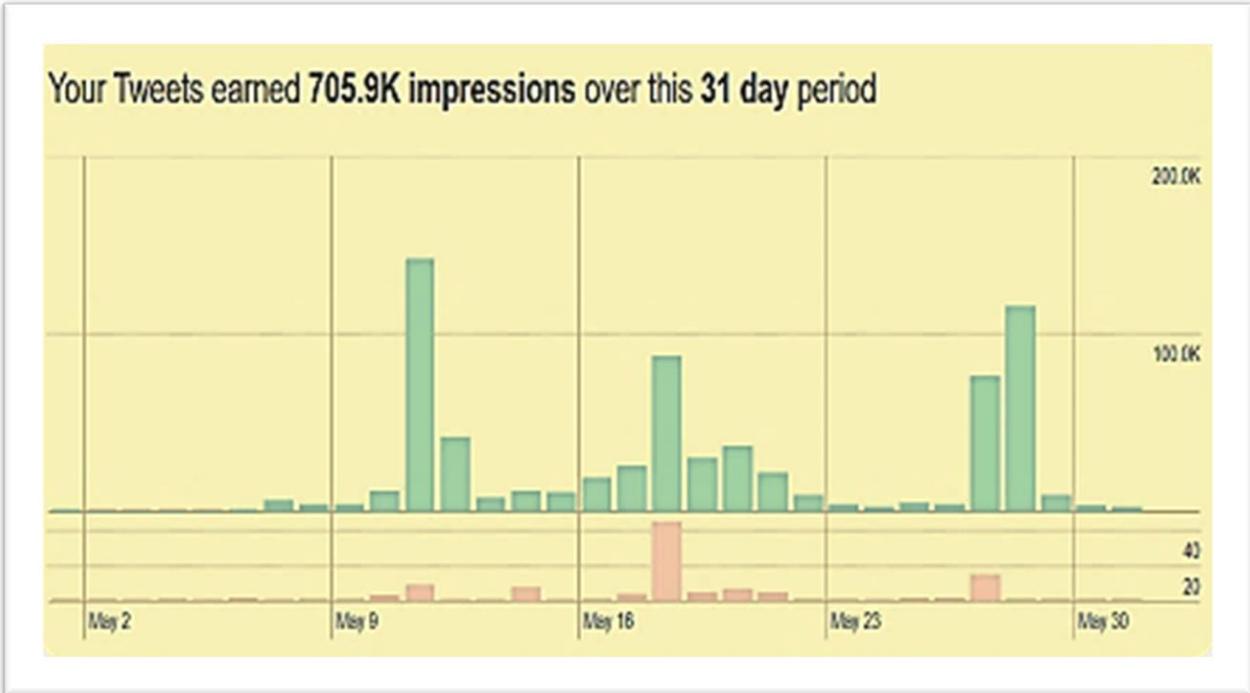


On **1 July**, the Committee held the annual International Conference on the question of Jerusalem with support from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), under the theme “*Forced demographic change in Jerusalem – grave breaches and a threat to peace*”. The discussion panel comprised of Ms. Lara Friedman (USA), Mr. Michael Lynk (UN Special Rapporteur), Ms. Suma Qawasmī (East Jerusalem), Ms. Nivine Sandouka, (East Jerusalem) and Emily Schaeffer Omer-Man (Israel).

The Panellists highlighted decades-long Israeli policies and actions to promote Jewish settlement into and Palestinian emigration from Jerusalem, enabled by a legal system ignoring international law and excluding the political context of a power imbalance between Jewish Israelis and Palestinians. The young Palestinian representatives outlined their daily struggles and peaceful resistance, highlighting the power of social media and international support.

The event was livestreamed on UN TV and UN social media. Click [here](#) for more details, documents and video of the event.

10. Committee's advocacy efforts through social media



The Committee's outreach and advocacy efforts on the question of Palestine through its social media accounts intensified during the escalation in violence between Israel and Gaza in May. During the second quarter of 2021 (April-June), the Twitter account of the Committee (@unispal) earned 865,000 impressions, with 700,000 of those occurring in May. The Committee Twitter account also received 43,400 profile visits, 3,730 mentions, and 2,355 new followers in May. During the second quarter, the Committee's UNISPAL website received 428,000 views with a large spike in the month of May.