



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

### Newsletter on Recent and Upcoming Activities

– No. 10 / October - December 2021 –

#### 1. Chair delivers statement at the quarterly Security Council Debate on the Middle East



On 19 October, the CEIRPP Chair submitted a written [statement](#) to the Security Council Open Debate on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, in which he expressed concern about the tense situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) while reaffirming the Committee's pledge to uphold its responsibilities towards the full realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence.

## 2. Committee Bureau holds Annual Retreat



On 4 November, the CEIRPP Bureau held its annual retreat to discuss critical issues on the question of Palestine, take stock of its undertakings in 2021 and plan future activities. Following the retreat, the Bureau shared a list of suggestions with Committee members and observers that will inform the Committee Programme of Work for 2022.

## 3. Committee Chair delivers remarks at annual DGC Media Seminar



On 16 and 17 November, the UN Department for Global Communications organized the annual Media Seminar on Peace in the Middle East, where the UN Secretary-General (in a video message) and the Chair of the Committee delivered opening remarks reiterating the United Nations' support for a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine based on the two-State solution. The event was organized around two panels, which brought together journalists, media experts, think tanks, diplomats, and academics from across the region and beyond to discuss media dynamics and trends connected to the Israel-Palestine conflict. More details on the event can be found [here](#).

#### 4. Committee holds second closed consultations with CSOs in 2021



On 22 November, the Committee held its second closed consultations of 2021 with representatives from Israeli, Palestinian and international CSOs to discuss the situation in the OPT and potential for further cooperation. Topics included demolitions of Palestinian homes and evictions in the OPT, challenges that Palestinians face in the Israeli legal system, and the situation of Palestinian prisoners. Speakers stressed that the new Israeli government has not changed its policy towards the OPT and that Israel is increasing pressure on advocates for Palestinian prisoners and human rights in general. Participants reiterated calls to re-establish the UN Centre Against Apartheid to address Israel's breaches of international law and to pressure Member States and regional blocks to fully implement SC Res 2334 (2016).

#### 5. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People



On 29 November, the Committee observed the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People at UN Headquarters in New York with a special session, where the Presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council made statements, and the Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretary-General conveyed his solidarity message.

Similar events were held at UNOG, UNOV and UNICs around the world. Heads of State and Government of UN Member States expressed their solidarity through official messages, as did representatives of regional organizations, and civil society activists including from East Jerusalem. More details on the event can be found [here](#).

#### 6. Chair Delivers Solidarity Day Statement at Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions



On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, the CEIRPP Chair, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, delivered a [video statement](#) at a virtual event organized by the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions (ANNHRI) in cooperation with the Palestine Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR). The webinar aimed to shed light on Israel's violations of human rights in the OPT and strengthen international solidarity. Participants included chairpersons, activists, and representatives of national institutions that are ANNHRI members as well as partner organizations and representatives of international institutions and solidarity groups.

## 7. General Assembly Debates Annual Report 2021 and Votes on Resolution



On 1 December, the GA held its annual debate on the question of Palestine which included the presentation of the Committee's 2021 annual report. Following the debate, the GA adopted one resolution sponsored by the Committee (with three others bi-annualized in 2020) with a voting pattern similar to 2020. The resolution on the Peaceful Settlement on the Question of

Palestine (A/76/L.16) obtained 147 votes in favour and 9 against, with 14 abstentions (5 more than in 2020). More details of the resolution can be found [here](#).

## 8. High Commissioner for Human Rights Bachelet briefs the Committee



On 7 December, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, briefed the Committee on the human rights situation in the OPT. Ms. Bachelet stated that the situation has become “disastrous”, with severe infringements affecting some four million people. The virtual event was livestreamed on UNTV and generated significant interest in the Arab press. More details of the meeting can be found [here](#).

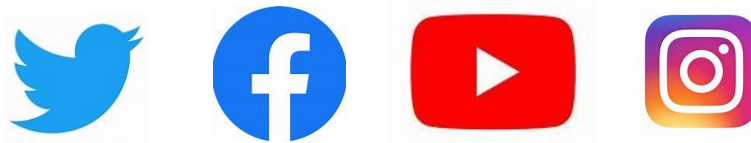
## 9. Committee event in support of Human Rights Defenders



On 7 December, the Committee held the virtual event “Supporting Human Rights Defenders in the OPT: Reality, Challenges, and Obligations”. Highlighting Israel’s recent designation of six Palestinian civil society organizations as “terrorist entities”, it included representatives of one of those organizations (Al-Haq), Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, as well as

a prominent Israeli human rights lawyer. Speakers emphasized the use of similar tactics by colonial powers to remove obstacles to their policies, suppress dissent and counter self-determination. CSO representatives called on Member States to confront Israel's actions and hold it accountable, while also calling to continue giving a platform to the voices that Israel is trying to suppress. More details of the meeting can be found [here](#).

#### **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 continued. During the fourth quarter of 2021, and until 20 December, the Twitter account of the Committee (@unispal) earned 98,800 impressions, received 25,878 profile visits, 1,025 mentions, and 270 new followers while the YouTube account had 4,407 views during the reporting period. The Committee Facebook page has now reached 8,016 followers. The number of subscribers to the Committee mailing list has reached 9,439 subscribers, while the UNISPAL website received 201,202 page views.

#### **11. Meet UNPal, the Committee website chatbot**



A new addition to the Committee's [website](#) is UNPal – the very first chatbot implemented on a public-facing UN website. Based on artificial intelligence, the chatbot can quickly answer questions without users having to navigate and find the answers pertaining to the question of Palestine, the work of the Committee, and the history of the conflict based on the content of the website. This project reflects an agreement on services provided by the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) to the Division of Palestinian Rights (DPPA). It went live on 29 November, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

- **Read** the latest [Monthly Bulletin](#) on UN and other International Organizations' action on the question of Palestine
- **Read** the latest [NGO Action News](#)
- **Read** the [Compilation of UN Resolutions and Decisions Adopted in 2019](#)
- **Read** the [Compilation of United Nations Reports on the Question of Palestine in 2020](#)
- **Visit** the Committee's Website: <http://www.un.org/unispal>
- **Like** the Committee's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/UN.palestinianrights>
- **Follow** the Committee on Twitter at @UNISPAL: <https://twitter.com/UNISPAL>
- **Follow** the Committee on Instagram at @UNISPAL: <https://www.instagram.com/unispal/>
- **Subscribe** to the Committee YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/UNpalestinianrights/>

*\* 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.*

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