Middle East

- On 18 April, Al-Haq published a statement calling for the international community to take measures to halt escalating Israeli violence against Palestinians, especially in East Jerusalem. Al-Haq informed that it has monitored a worrying increase in excessive use of force, settler violence, attacks on holy sites and worshippers, and collective punishment measures against Palestinians since the beginning of the month of Ramadan including widespread raids, arbitrary arrests, and movement restrictions by Israeli Security Forces. Al-Haq also alerted on what it considers inflammatory rhetoric by Israeli officials.

- On 17 April, Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) marked Palestinian Prisoner’s Day by demanding the international community to take immediate action to pressure Israel towards improving prisoners’ living conditions. PCHR claimed that Palestinian prisoners suffer from violations inside Israeli prisons, which contravene international and humanitarian covenants. PCHR called upon the international community to intervene urgently in fulfilment of its legal and moral obligations towards Palestinians and take effective measures to pressure Israel to comply with its obligations towards Palestinian prisoners according to the rules of international law. On the same day, Addameer published an article on the same issue.

- On 14 April, Al-Haq submitted an urgent appeal to UN Special Procedures on the intensifying level of violence against Palestinians by settlers. The appeal highlights alarming forms and levels of settler violence throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory in 2021 and after recent attacks by Palestinians inside the Green Line. Al-Haq called on mandate holders to publicly condemn and address these attacks, and to urge Israel to immediately halt the expansion of its settlement enterprise.

Europe

- On 19 April, Association Belgo-Palestinienne issued a statement calling for the European Union to condemn provocations by Israeli fundamentalists and the repression and violence by Israeli Security Forces against Palestinians on the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount. The Association further stated that these actions constitute a violation of the 1967 status quo.

North America

- On 21 April, Americans for Peace Now (APN) organised the webinar “Jerusalem in Crisis”, with Jerusalem expert Daniel Seidemann. Panellists highlighted the causes of renewed tensions
in Jerusalem, with the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount being again the epicentre. They discussed what Israeli and Palestinian leaders, as well as other stakeholders including the US Administration could do to prevent further deterioration.

- On 19 April, Foundation for Middle East Peace (FMEP) published the podcast “(Another) Crisis in Jerusalem – an Israeli Perspective”. In this episode of Occupied Thoughts podcast, FMEP’s Lara Friedman spoke with Aviv Tatarsky, researcher at the NGO Ir Amim, about escalating tensions and violence on and around Jerusalem’s Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount.

- On 14 April, Foundation for Middle East Peace published the podcast “Surging Violence” Narrative Ignores Ongoing Structural Violence Against Palestinians. In this episode of Occupied Thoughts podcast, FMEP’s Lara Friedman speaks with +972 Magazine’s Amjad Iraqi about recent attacks against Israelis and related Israeli fears that are dominating the news cycle, as well as the ongoing structural Israeli violence against Palestinians – including both day-to-day policies that implement Israeli apartheid and acts of collective punishment that rarely make the headlines.

**United Nations**

- On 27 April, the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People will convene the virtual event “Al-Khalil/Hebron - A case study for the impact of Israeli settlements on Palestinian rights under occupation”. This event will highlight the critical situation caused by Israel’s ongoing illegal settlement campaign in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and its impact on the rights of the Palestinian people. The event will be held in virtual format, from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm (NY time); it will be livestreamed on UN Web TV.

- On 15 April, the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General issued a statement in which the Secretary-General stated being deeply concerned by the deteriorating security situation in Jerusalem. The Secretary-General calls on leaders on all sides to help calm the situation, adding that provocations on the Holy Esplanade must stop now to prevent further escalation. The Spokesperson of the Secretary General issued another statement on 20 April reiterating that the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem must be upheld and respected.

- On 15 April, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, issued a statement expressing concerns following the deteriorating security situation in Jerusalem during these holy days, calling on political, religious and community leaders on all sides to help calm the situation, avoid spreading inflammatory rhetoric and speak up against those seeking to escalate the situation. Tor Wennesland further urged the authorities on both sides to immediately de-escalate the situation and prevent any further provocations by radical actors. The Special Coordinator issued a second statement on 19 April encouraging efforts to de-escalate the situation.

*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*
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