

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

NGO Action News

5 May 2022

Middle East

- On 3 May, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) issued a press release to mark World Press Day, stating that freedoms of expression and journalistic work is on the decline in Palestine. PCHR reiterated that freedom of expression, including freedom of press, is the cornerstone of the human rights and democracy, adding that the Israeli occupation continued its policy to silence the press in the Occupied Palestinian Territory without accountability. This situation is also exacerbated by internal Palestinian divisions. Among other measures, PCHR demanded prosecution of all those responsible for, and perpetrators of, violations against journalists and opinion makers.
- On 3 May, [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) (CMEP) and Combatants for Peace organized the Israeli-Palestinian Joint Memorial Day Ceremony. CMEP stated that ceremonies for Israeli Memorial Day most often serve to reinforce cultural narratives of pain, victimhood, and hopelessness. Joint Memorial Day is the largest Israeli-Palestinian peace event in history and co-hosted by Combatants for Peace and Parents Circle-Families Forum. It aims at transforming this narrative by bringing Palestinians to the Memorial alongside Israelis, transforming despair into self-reflection, personal responsibility, and ultimately hope.
- On 1 May, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) issued a press statement marking International Workers' Day, stressing that Palestinian workers continue to suffer from Israeli violations of their rights and from the absence of a national social protection system. PCHR informed that thousands of Palestinian workers in Israel are victims of Israeli employers' breaches of their economic and social rights and the Israeli authorities' oversight towards safety measures at workshops. In addition, PCHR stated that Palestinian workers in Israel face discriminatory practices, particularly the large wage gap between Palestinian and Israeli workers that is nearly fourfold, adding that the Palestinian minimum wage ought to be reviewed to be more equitable.
- On 27 April, the [Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center](#) (JLAC) informed that the Jerusalem Human Rights Consortium submitted a petition demanding the annulment of the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Order). The petition was submitted by an attorney representing JLAC and the Women Center for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC). The petition particularly highlights the disproportionate and unlawful violations of the rights to family life, equality, and dignity in violation of international law conventions and norms and of Israel's Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty. [Hamoked](#) informed that the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), HaMoked and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel (PHR-Israel) petitioned the High Court of Justice on April 25, 2022, on behalf of

individuals harmed by the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Order), demanding the Law's cancellation.

- On 26 April, [B'Tselem](#) published an article informing that all the Palestinians in Israeli administrative detentions have been boycotting the military court proceedings in their cases since January 2022. No Israeli official has addressed their concerns, and the courts continue to hear the detention cases in the absence of the detainees and their legal counsel. B'Tselem added that Israel's use of administrative detention renders it unlawful, and that, according to the Israel Prison Service, Israel is currently holding 579 Palestinians in administrative detention.

North America

- On 6-8 May, the [People's Forum](#) will organize the Palestine Right To Return Coalition (Al-Awda) 14th Annual National Conference. During this series of activities and events, participants will raise the issue of strategic collaboration for advancing Palestinian liberation and return, including film screenings and cultural events, involving activists and speakers from Palestine and globally, and combined with workshops geared to craft advanced strategies for advancing the Palestinian liberation movement.
- On 28 April, [Americans for Peace Now](#) sent a letter to US Secretary Blinken calling for the Biden administration to overturn the previous State Department guidance that allows products manufactured in West Bank settlements to be labeled "Made in Israel". The letter further reads that doing so would rectify a misguided, damaging policy, and would be a significant contribution to advancing a future Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.
- On 28 April, [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) (CMEP) issued a statement informing that it had joined 24 Christian faith leaders in writing to the US Congress in support of the Palestinian Children and Families Act. According to CMEP, the Palestinian Children and Families Act was introduced last year and would ensure no U.S. taxpayer funds to Israel are used to abuse Palestinian children, demolish Palestinian homes or structures, or annex Palestinian land in the West Bank. The letter also called on a Senator to introduce companion legislation in the Senate.
- On 27 April, the [Columbia University Palestine Studies Centre](#) organized a book talk with Perla Issa, author of "The Endurance of Palestinian Political Factions: An Everyday Perspective from Nahr el-Bared Camp". This book is an ethnographic study of Palestinian political factions in Lebanon through an immersion in daily home life, showing how intimate, interpersonal, and kin-based relations are transformed into political networks and offers a fresh analysis of how those networks are in turn metamorphosed into political structures.
- On 27 April, [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast "Peace in name only: Opposing the Abraham Accords & Normalization Agreements". In this episode of "Occupied Thoughts," FMEP's Sarah Anne Minkin speaks with Jihad Abusalim (2022 FMEP Fellow) and Dana El Kurd (University of Richmond) about what the Abraham Accords and normalization agreements with Israel over the last few years have opened up in the Arab world, including state-sponsored efforts to cultivate acceptance of Israel and suppress support for Palestinians.

- On 27 April, the [Columbia University Palestine Studies Center](#) announced the publication of the article "Dromoelimination: Accelerating settler colonialism in Palestine" by Wassim Ghantous (Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Fellow 2021-2022) and Mikko Joronen. This paper examines the eliminatory speed of Israeli settler colonialism, particularly the ways in which settler organizations aim to accelerate the pace of elimination at the colonial frontiers in Palestine. By focusing on the settler NGO Regavim, this paper shows how such settler entrepreneurs constantly develop new techniques that challenge the slow and creeping eliminatory pace of state's administrative, legal and security bodies, a process the authors call 'dromoelimination'.

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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