

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

NGO Action News

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Middle East

- On 25 May, [Al Mezan](#) informed that Israel's Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA), the authority in charge of processing permit applications filed by Palestinians in Gaza, has refused to answer inquiries by human rights organizations and lawyers on behalf of Gaza residents since January 2022. In the past six months, inquiries by legal representatives of permit applicants from Gaza receive an automated response from the CLA, which states that all inquiries on the status of permit applications must be referred to the Palestinian Civil Affairs Committee (PCAC). This is despite the fact that the PCAC serves solely as a channel for applications and does not represent the permit applicants themselves. As a result, Palestinians in Gaza are facing even longer delays than before in receiving responses to their permit applications, even in patently humanitarian cases, at great risk to lives and in violation of fundamental rights.
- On 24 May, [Peace Now](#) informed that the Israeli Minister of Defense approved the declaration of the largest Nature Reserve in 25 years in the West Bank. This new Nature Reserve is located south of Jericho and includes 22,000 dunams (5,445 acres) of which about 6,000 dunams are private Palestinian land, another part is state-registered land, and most are lands declared as "state lands" in 1989 as part of a wholesale declaration on tens of thousands of acres in the area. According to Peace Now, the meaning of declaring a nature reserve is that in addition to the legal restrictions that normally exist in Area C (planning and building laws, etc.), there are additional restrictions that are used to limit Palestinian usage of their lands.
- On 24 May, [Al Haq](#), [Al Mezan](#) and the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) informed that they filed a submission to the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC) providing a detailed description and analysis of the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the May 2021 Israeli military offensive against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip. The submission concludes that only a prompt, concrete and comprehensive investigation and the opening of specific cases against individual Israeli defendants by the ICC can end the decades-long impunity for crimes committed against Palestinians.
- On 23 May, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) informed that it participated in the hybrid event "Palestine and the ICC Paralysis: Is Justice still Possible for Palestinians?" The event brought together Palestinian and international NGOs senior officers, scholars, and artists to shed light on the on-going perpetration of serious violations of Palestinians' fundamental rights and publicly denounce the lack of effective measures taken by the ICC in one of the most documented situations for the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

- On 20 May, [Yesh Din](#) published a data sheet reviewing the outcome of military law enforcement system's work in 2019–2020 regarding offenses committed by soldiers against Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The data presented is based on information provided to Yesh Din by the military, following various requests for information filed by the organization. According to this analysis, data indicates that while the military law enforcement system has made some changes in recent years, those changes were primarily designed to enable the system to meet measurable objectives that create the appearance of a functioning law enforcement system. This appearance enables the system to show improved data and repel the criticism directed at it, while continuing to grant soldiers near total immunity from prosecution in cases of harming Palestinians.
- On 19 May, [7amleh](#) concluded the sixth edition of its annual Palestine Digital Activism Forum 2022. The digital forum was conducted over 3 days, under the theme of “Digital Solidarity for Justice.” It aimed to shed light on issues of digital solidarity in the regional and international context. The forum welcomed speakers from local, regional and international organizations, alongside representatives from different tech companies, such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Clubhouse, Wikipedia, and the Head of the Meta Oversight Board, as well as Mary Lawlor, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and government representatives, in addition to academics, civil society representatives and experts in the field.
- On 18 May, [Adalah](#) published a “Q&A on the Legality of Waving the Palestinian Flag”, in response to inquiries regarding the behaviour of the Israeli police in confiscating Palestinian flags from mourners during the funeral of Al Jazeera correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh in Jerusalem. Adalah informed that raising the Palestinian flag is not a criminal offense, as an Israeli judge recently ruled. However, the Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Matters clarified in 2014 that although raising the Palestinian flag is not criminalized, there is still no “absolute immunity” for raising the flag as Article 82 of the Police Ordinance (1971) grants the police the authority to confiscate a flag if it results in disruption of public order or breach of peace, and in these cases, an individual may be arrested or prosecuted.
- On 17 May, [Ir Amin](#) sent a letter to the Israeli Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, and to the Alternate Prime Minister & Foreign Minister, Yair Lapid, urging them to prevent the passage on 29 May of the annual Jerusalem Day Flag Parade through the Muslim Quarter and the Damascus Gate area. Ir Amim stressed that the Flag Parade and its passage through Damascus Gate and the Muslim Quarter is a display of incitement, Jewish dominance, and racism.

Europe

- On 24 May, the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) (NRC) published an article stating that the European Union is putting Palestinian lives at risk as it continues to delay disbursement of aid to vital sectors in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. According to NRC, a large portion of EU funding committed to Palestine, valued at nearly €215 million, has been delayed since 2021 as the European Union continues to condition the release of the money to specific changes to

Palestinian school textbooks. Meanwhile, this aid suspension is crippling critical sectors and services, including healthcare in occupied East Jerusalem, with dire consequences for patients needing treatment at hospitals. NRC urged EU donors to immediately find a way to resume funding of life-saving programmes, basic service provision and social safety networks without further conditions.

- On 19 May, the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine](#) (ECCP) informed that legislators from Europe and North America issued a joint statement calling for a coordinated international response to the deteriorating human rights situation facing the Palestinian people, following the publication of reports by Amnesty International and United Nations Special Rapporteur Michael Lynk which concluded that Israel's practices against the Palestinians amount to "apartheid." In the statement, legislators call upon their respective governments to meaningfully engage with this near consensus in the human rights sector, and to act against discriminatory Israeli policies.

North America

- On 26 May, [Americans for Peace Now](#) will organize the webinar "Palestinian Journalists under Occupation". Two prominent veteran Palestinian journalists, Daoud Kuttab and Mohammed Daraghmeh, will discuss what it is like to be a Palestinian journalist in the West Bank, including the unique challenges Palestinian members of the media face, pressures they encounter from Israel, the Palestinian government and their own society.
- On 18 May, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) organized a discussion on the documentary "1948: Creation and Catastrophe". As part of the series Occupied Thoughts, FMEP's Palestinian non-resident fellow, Dr. Maha Nassar, talked with Dr. Ahlam Muhtaseb, professor of media studies at California State University, San Bernardino, about her award-winning documentary, as Palestinians commemorate 74 years since the Nakba.

United Nations

- On 16 June, the [Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) will organize the event "Apartheid, International Law, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory", a high-level conversation between Zeid Raad Al-Husseini, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Member of The Elders, and Agnès Callamard, Secretary General of Amnesty International. The event will shed light on the findings of Amnesty's report entitled "Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity", published in February 2022, its recommendations, the reception of the report and the way forward. The event will be held on 16 June 2022 in virtual format, from 10.30 a.m. to 12 p.m. (NY time); it will take place on WebEx and be livestreamed on [UNWebTV](#). All Member States, Observer States, observers, intergovernmental and civil society organizations as well as the public and media will be invited to attend.

- On 24 May, Ireland hosted an Arria-formula meeting of the [Security Council](#) on the protection of journalists, referencing references the 11 May killing of the Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was shot dead while reporting for Al Jazeera on an Israel Defense Forces (IDF) operation in the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank city of Jenin. This meeting provided an opportunity for Member States to take stock of the protection of journalists in situations on the agenda of the Security Council and to discuss implementation of Resolution 2222 (2015). The meeting was open for participation by Security Council members. Non-Council members were invited to submit written statements, to be included in a written compilation summarising the meeting.

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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