

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

NGO Action News

12 May 2022

Middle East

- On 9 May, the [Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies](#) (CIHRS) reported that it took part in the 49th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, convened from 28 February to 1 April 2022, focusing on Israel's perpetration of the crime of apartheid against the Palestinian people. CIHRS stated that it continued a campaign launched two years ago in cooperation with a coalition of international and Palestinian organizations. During the session, CIHRS cast light on policies and practices of Israel that constitute the crime of apartheid against Palestinians, including policies dividing and fragmenting the Palestinian people, the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements, and growing settler violence.
- On 8 May, on the one-year anniversary of the latest conflict in Gaza, [B'Tselem](#) published a collection of testimonies titled "Life in Ruins: Gaza One Year On". B'Tselem's field researchers in Gaza talked to people who lost their loved ones and homes during the Israeli military operation on the Gaza Strip of May 2021. Recalling that Gaza is one of the most crowded places on earth, B'Tselem stressed that almost a quarter of the 232 Palestinian killed during the bombardments were minors, and more than half were not taking part in the hostilities. Thousands were injured and thousands lost everything they owned. On 10 May, [Gisha](#) published an article on the same topic, highlighting that funding for reconstruction in Gaza was dwindling, and infrastructure development projects were continually confronted by the obstacles of Israel's permit regime. Finally, [Human Rights Watch](#) also published an article marking the anniversary of the hostilities.
- On 7 May, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) published an article informing that Israel's Civil Administration in the West Bank announced on 6 May 2022, that the Higher Planning Council is set to give its approval for planning and building 3,988 new settlement units. In addition to the settlement expansion scheme, the Israeli Supreme Court authorizes forcible expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians from their lands in Masafer Yatta, south of Hebron. The Court refused the petition by 12 Palestinian residential compounds housing at least 2,000 people submitted against a 1980 military order that imposes a complete closure on Masafer Yatta area and declares that over 30,000 dunums designated as Firing Zone, with no regard for it being an inhabited area. [JLAC](#), [Norwegian Refugee Council](#), [Association Belgo-Palestinienne](#), [B'Tselem](#) and [Peace Now](#) also published articles on this issue while [ACRI](#) published an appeal for donations to fund a new appeal.

Europe

- On 11 May, several NGO groups published articles following the death of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, Al-Jazeera Channel's reporter, and the injury of her colleague allegedly by the Israeli Security Forces (ISF) during their coverage of ISF's incursion into Jenin refugee camp. [Amnesty International](#) published an article "Increase in unlawful killings and other crimes highlights urgent need to end Israel's apartheid against Palestinians" as well as a public statement titled "[Israel/OPT: Continuing patterns of unlawful killings and other crimes further entrench apartheid](#)", urging Israeli authorities to end unlawful killings, wilful injury, arbitrary arrests, torture and other ill-treatment, persecution and collective punishment against Palestinians, including many children. Following this death, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights \(PCHR\)](#) published an article urging the relevant international parties, especially the International Federation of Journalists and United Nations human rights mechanisms, particularly the Special Rapporteurs for both the right to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly, to monitor violations and take serious actions in response to incidents relating to the direct targeting of journalists. [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) published an article as well on Shireen Abu Akleh's death.

North America

- On 12 May, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) will organize the discussion "The Weaponization of Israel/Palestine in 2022 Politics & Elections". Rania Batrice (advisor to elected officials, candidates, and non-profits) and Peter Beinart (Newmark J-School and CUNY Graduate Center) will discuss with Lara Friedman (President, the Foundation for Middle East Peace) on how Israel/Palestine is manifesting as an issue in the 2022 US electoral cycle and what that means for the future.
- On 6 May, [J Street](#) issued a press release to declare being deeply troubled by recent Israeli government moves to displace Palestinians and advance the illegal settlement enterprise in the occupied West Bank. It is especially concerning that these moves were being made just as US President Joe Biden confirmed he is preparing for his first visit as president to Israel. J Street added that it is therefore vital that the Biden administration firmly and unequivocally opposes these harmful actions and the pattern of displacement of Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank. [Americans for Peace Now](#) also published a statement urging the Biden administration to block Israel's planned construction of 4,000 more homes in West Bank settlements.

United Nations

- On 10 May, the [Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#) (UNSCO) published a report highlighting the urgency of adopting a more strategic approach to address the economic and fiscal crisis faced by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Government. It urges a coordinated and integrated response to resolve this precarious situation. This report, issued for the upcoming meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee in Brussels, warned of an uncoordinated approach to address the current political, economic and security

challenges in the Occupied Palestinian Territory which only risks perpetuating a continuous cycle of crisis management. The report notes that economic steps alone, including Palestinian fiscal reforms and further easing of Israeli access and movement restrictions — while essential and desperately needed — will not sustainably address the multiple crises facing the PA. In addition, the report calls on all actors to push beyond a conflict-management paradigm to a conflict-resolution paradigm.

- On 6 May, the [United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#), Lynn Hastings, issued a statement calling on Israel to cease demolitions and evictions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in line with its obligations under international law. This statement was issued in response to the 4 May decision of the Israeli Supreme Court to reject the petitions against eviction orders of the residents of Masafer Yatta in the occupied West Bank. The decision affects over one thousand Palestinians including 500 children in the occupied West Bank and allows for the eviction of the residents. As all domestic legal remedies had been exhausted, the community was now unprotected and at risk of imminent displacement.

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.



<http://www.facebook.com/UN.palestinianrights>



<http://www.twitter.com/UNISPAL>