

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

NGO Action News

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Middle East

- On 31 May, [Peace Now](#) published an article informing that on 18 July 2022, the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) will discuss the objections to the plans to establish a settlement of approximately 3,412 housing units in the E1 area, located in the Jerusalem periphery. The hearing of the objections is a central stage in the procedure of approving the plan, following which the Higher Planning Council of the ICA can convene to approve the plan for validation. The plan is considered exceptionally lethal for the chances for peace and the two-State solution as it cuts across the West Bank and prevents the development of a contiguous Palestinian territory between Ramallah, East Jerusalem and Bethlehem.
- On 29 May, [B'Tselem](#) published the article “Supreme Court rules: Israel above the law”. According to the article, the Israeli Supreme Court delivered a judgment on 4 May 2022 on the State’s plan to expel some 1,000 Palestinians from their homes in the South Hebron Hills/Masafer Yatta in the West Bank, ruling that the military commander has both the power to declare a firing zone in the area, so new recruits can train there, and the power to force out anyone who is not a permanent resident. B’Tselem stated that the justices of the Supreme Court have thus allowed Israel to commit a war crime by bolstering settlements in the area and by attempting to drive Palestinians out of the area, including by making their lives so unbearable that they leave ostensibly by choice.
- On 28 May, [Al-Haq](#) released the legal report, “Khudair Warehouse: Israel’s Chemical Attack on the Gaza Strip”. This report built on the inaugural investigation of the newly launched Al-Haq Forensic Architecture Investigative Unit. The investigation examined Israel’s targeted attack and destruction of the Khudair Warehouse by the Israeli Security Forces during Israel’s widescale May 2021 military offensive on the Gaza Strip. Al-Haq highlighted that the attack on the chemical warehouse created a chemical cloud that spread chemical waste over the people and environment of Gaza, poisoning the population, amounting to the indirect use of a chemical weapon, prohibited under international law.

North America

- On 31 May, [Americans for Peace Now](#) published the article “Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, and the Right-Religious Flag March”, as part of the series, Hard Questions, Tough Answers. In this episode, Yossi Alpher, an independent security analyst, stressed that the Flag March on Jerusalem Day has become an occasion for incitement and religious fervour, and a militant ritual of National Religious youth, featuring racist epithets and violence by Jews and provoked

a like response from Jerusalem Arabs. Yossi Alpher also highlighted that the Temple Mount/Haram Al-Sharif status quo is fast unraveling and violated by both sides, adding that Jordan's status as guardian of Al-Aqsa has been eroded in recent years.

- On 26 May, [J Street](#) issued a press release welcoming a bicameral letter, signed by 20 US Senators and 63 House Representatives, which calls on the Biden Administration to immediately engage with the Israeli government to prevent the forced displacement of approximately 1,000 Palestinians from their homes in the Occupied West Bank area of Masafer Yatta, south of Hebron. This letter is a response to a ruling by Israel's High Court earlier this month that paved the way for what would be the largest mass eviction of Palestinian families in decades. According to J Street, Members of Congress are making clear to the administration that the deteriorating situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory requires urgent attention – and that deeply harmful acts of displacement and de facto annexation must be confronted. Following this initiative, the [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#) (USCPR) issued a call to the public to increase support the Palestinians at risks of displacement in Masafer Yatta. USCPR informed that supporters sent more than 2,000 emails to Congress to defend Masafer Yatta. USCPR added that, thanks to this grassroots pressure, 15 members of Congress signed on a new letter on 31 May, calling on the Secretary of State to stop the Israeli government's destruction of Palestinian homes in this area.

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 Ra'ad Al-Hussein, President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Peace Institute, and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 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 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, intergovernmental and civil society organizations as well as the public and media will be invited to attend.
- On 28 May, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, issued a statement to express concerns about the spiralling cycle of violence that has taken many Palestinian and Israeli lives in recent weeks. He called upon all sides to exercise maximum restraint and make wise decisions to avoid another violent conflict that will only claim more lives.
- On 26 May, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, briefed the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. Tor Wennesland stated that recent weeks have been filled with the familiar pattern of daily violence, including armed clashes, settlement expansion, evictions, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian structures, as well as a deadly terrorist attack in Israel. The persistence of conflict drivers, and the absence

of real political will to change course, has empowered extremists and is eroding the perception among Palestinians and Israelis that a resolution of the conflict is achievable. These dynamics – combined with the financial crisis – are dangerously converging and intensifying. Daily violence, including settler-related violence, continued throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Special Coordinator reiterated that perpetrators of all acts of violence must be held accountable and swiftly brought to justice, adding that there is no justification for acts of terrorism or violence against civilians, and also reiterated that security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life.

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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