

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

## NGO Action News

9 June 2022

### Middle East

- On 7 June, [Adalah](#) reported that the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel ([COI-OPTI](#)) issued its first report to the UN Human Rights Council. This is the first Commission of Inquiry to address human rights violations perpetrated against Palestinians in all the territories under Israeli control including Palestinian citizens of Israel. The COI-OPTI identified the continued Israeli occupation, impunity and discrimination against Palestinians as underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict. Adalah calls upon the Commission to continue to investigate key human rights abuses it referred to in its preliminary report.
- On 6 June, several organizations criticized the decision by Israeli authorities to extend human rights defender, Salah Hammouri's administrative detention for another three months. Al Haq informed that several organizations, including [Addameer](#), Amnesty International, Al-Haq and the Palestinian Institute of Public Diplomacy, among others, published a press release to launch the international campaign "[Justice for Salah](#)". [Amnesty International](#) informed that the Israeli authorities have arbitrarily detained Salah Hammouri without charge or trial in an obvious attempt to muzzle his work on human rights and called on the Israeli authorities to ensure that he is allowed to keep his residency status in Jerusalem and continue his human rights work without fear of reprisals. [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) published a statement as well criticizing this decision.

### Europe

- On 14 June, the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine](#) (ECCP) and partners will organize a conference in the European Union Conference room titled "15 years of Gaza blockade – what's the role of the EU?" ECCP recalled that June 2022 will mark 15 years since the imposition by Israel of the blockade on over 2.3 million people in the Gaza Strip. Participants will discuss the EU's responsibility for the permanence of the blockade and its consequences, the role can it play in pressuring Israel to end it, tools the EU have in its disposal to stop funding Israeli military and surveillance companies.

### North America

- On 3 June, [J Street](#) issued a press release welcoming a new letter initiated at the House of Representatives, signed by 80 US Members of Congress, calling on the Biden Administration to show strong, principled leadership to support peace, human rights and democratic freedoms for Israelis and Palestinians. The letter warns that the Israeli-Palestinian situation appears to be deteriorating and, in the absence of strong American leadership, is in danger of growing worse.
- On 3 June, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the webinar, “How AIPAC Punishes Candidates Who Support Palestinian Rights”. In this episode of the series “Occupied Thoughts,” journalist and FMEP Fellow Peter Beinart speaks with Waleed Shahid, spokesperson and communications director of Justice Democrats.
- On 2 June, the [Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies](#) informed that the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) released “The Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question”, which was developed as part of a joint project with the Palestinian Museum. The fully bilingual (English–Arabic) platform is entirely devoted to the history of modern Palestine, from the end of the Ottoman era to the present. The Encyclopedia, the first of its kind, was developed for use by academics, students, journalists, and the general public.
- On 1 June, [Americans for Peace Now](#) published an article informing that Peace Now organized with its partner organizations a protest focussing on the settlement of Homesh, which was built on Palestinian land in violation of a 2005 Knesset law which specifically ordered its dismantling. In addition to the law forbidding Israelis from being in Homesh, a Supreme Court ruling allowed its Palestinian landowners to return to their land in 2013. Peace Now added that, despite the legislation and the Court ruling, settlers continue to reside there and even opened a yeshiva, a religious seminary, in Homesh. Meanwhile, the Palestinian landowners are denied or restricted access to their private property.

### 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 [UN WebTV](#). All Member States, Observer States, intergovernmental and civil society organizations as well as the public and media will be invited to attend.
- On 5 June, the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) informed that a building of 12 housing units is at imminent threat of demolition in Wadi Qaddum area of Silwan neighbourhood, in East Jerusalem. Recently, the Palestinian families

received a demolition order from the Israeli municipality and were called to evacuate the building within days. OCHA added that if the demolition goes ahead, 32 adults and 42 children will be forcibly evicted. Two of the households in the building are Palestine refugees, and another two would be displaced for the second time in two years, following previous demolitions. OCHA further informed that 300 structures have been demolished or seized across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since the beginning of 2022.

- On 2 June, the [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East](#) (UNRWA), announced the launch of an Education Expert Advisory Group to help ensure the over 550,000 Palestine refugee students that UNRWA serves maintain access to quality education. The panel will be composed of globally recognized education experts representing renowned institutions such as UNESCO and the World Bank, among others. Working in concert with the UNRWA Commissioner-General, Deputy Commissioner-General, and Director of Education, the Advisory Group will provide recommendations and advice on a range of issues of strategic importance, including the digitalization of education, gender equality, and educational planning models.

*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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