

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

NGO Action News

4 February 2021

Middle East

- On 2 February, [Addameer – Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#) denounced an Israeli Military Court's recent administrative detention order against a Palestinian child with a rare disease. The NGO called for immediate intervention to end his administrative detention and ensure his rights to liberty, health and fair trial, and for an end to the arbitrary detention of Palestinian children and to ensure that their deprivation of liberty is used as the last resort for the shortest time possible.
- On 2 February, [B'Tselem](#) issued a press release to denounce recent Israeli measures as part of its ongoing efforts to forcibly transfer Palestinian communities in order to take over their land. These included the confiscation by Israeli forces of most of the residential structures and livestock pens in the community of Khirbet Humsah, as well as on the launch of a large-scale military manoeuvre set to last two to three days in areas Israel has declared firing zones in the South Hebron Hills.
- On 2 February, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights \(PCHR\)](#) denounced a large-scale demolition operation of Palestinian civilian properties in Humsah al-Fuqa area, in the northern Jordan Valley, where 28 homes and facilities were demolished by the Israeli forces displacing 85 Palestinians including 45 children. PCHR highlighted these demolitions as part of an accelerated campaign by the Israeli forces to demolish Palestinian homes in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, under the Israeli annexation and settlement-expansion schemes.
- On 31 January, [Peace Now](#) issued the report “(Dis)Approvals for Palestinians in Area C – 2009-2020”. The report describes how in 2019 and 2020, some 32 plans and permits for Palestinians in Area C were approved, while 310 plans and permit requests were rejected. At the same time, 16,098 Israeli settlement plans were approved and promoted and permits for an additional 2,233 units were issued by the Civil Administration.

On 31 January, the [International Federation for Human Rights \(FIDH\) and 60 member organisations including Palestinian Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights](#) addressed a joint open letter to US President Biden to call on his administration to demonstrate its commitment to human rights and alignment with the international legal order by fully rescinding, with immediate effect, the Executive Order “Blocking Property of Certain Persons Associated with the International Criminal Court”. The latter targets international justice efforts before the ICC directly and further threatens international efforts towards accountability for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole.

Europe

- On 28 January, the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine \(ECCP\)](#) issued the press release “European Complicity with Israel’s Violations of Human Rights: The Case of G4S”. ECCP criticized G4S – the biggest security company in the world – to be “deeply complicit in Israel’s illegal and violent repression of Palestinians” with its operation and partial ownership of Israel’s National Police Academy and the training it provides to the Israeli police. The platform of NGOs stated it was unacceptable for the European institutions to have contractual relations with a firm that is engaged in providing support for activities that constitute violations of international law.
- On 28 January, [Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights \(LPHR\)](#) published its Child Rights Bulletin for the period 1 November - 31 December 2020, where it outlines key incidents under a range of violation categories – fatalities, injuries, settler-violence, arrests and detention, interference against education, displacement and demolitions.
- On 28 January, the [Association France Palestine Solidarité \(AFPS\)](#) shared the joint petition by organisations working on Palestinian rights “Facebook, We Need to Talk, And You’re not Letting Us”. In an that open letter to Mark Zuckerberg and Sheryl Sandberg, AFPS expressed their worry with Facebook’s decision to revise its policy on hate speeches while and considering the term “Zionist” as being interchangeable with the terms “Jewish” or “Israeli”, thus equating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism.
- On 27 January, the [Association Belgo-Palestinienne \(ABP\)](#) issued the press release “[Belgium’s] Regions Need to Stop Promoting Trade with an Apartheid State”, asking Brussels regional officials to vote in favour of a draft bill on the criteria to be taken into consideration by the Belgian regional authorities in authorising economic missions abroad, following a recent suspension of a regional economic mission in Israel co-organised by the group “HUB-Brussels”, because of pressure from several human rights groups.

North America

- On 11 February, [Columbia University – Centre for Palestine Studies](#) will hold the live panel “‘Palestine, In-Between’ Palestinian Feminist Discourses: Contemporary Views and Emerging Movements” with speakers from Gaza, Haifa and Ramallah. The panel will aim to introduce new feminist movements that are gaining momentum across Palestine and Israel.
- On 8 February, [Americans for Peace Now \(APN\)](#) will hold the webinar “Israeli Elections Round 4 – New Map or More of the Same?” with political analyst and pollster Dahlia Scheindlin. The discussion will focus on whether there are new players on the scene, if they have a chance of denying Prime Minister Netanyahu another term in office, how the traditional left is faring, the Arab vote and the prospects for a joint Jewish-Arab party.

United Nations

- On 4 February, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) held its first meeting of the year. The UN Secretary-General presided over the election of the Bureau Members for the period of one-year. The Committee also adopted the 2021 Programme of Work.

This newsletter informs about recent and upcoming activities of Civil Society Organisations 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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