

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

## NGO Action News

15 October 2020

### Middle East

- On 15 October, [56 civil society organizations including 7amleh – The Arab Centre for the Advancement of Social Media, Al Marsad – Arab Human Rights Centre in Golan Heights, Association des universitaires pour le respect du droit international en Palestine](#) made a joint oral intervention at the 45th Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council, under item 7 “Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories”, to highlight the imminent threat of forcible expulsion of human rights lawyer Salah Hammouri by the Israeli authorities for “breach of allegiance to the State of Israel”.
- On 15 October, [Al-Haq](#) issued a press release denouncing the sharp rise in the number of Palestinian structures demolished by the Israeli authorities in July and August, mentioning that on average 57 structures were demolished, which is twice as high as the average of previous months. Al-Haq condemned all forms of arbitrary demolition of Palestinian structures and spoke of the recent intensification of Israeli policies as “nothing but a reflection of international community’s failure to punish the occupying Power” for its violations of international law.
- On 15 October, [Peace Now](#)’s Settlement Watch issued a press release to denounce the approval by the Higher Planning Council of the Israeli Civil Administration of 4,948 settlement units in a number of plans on 14 and 15 October. Peace Now lamented that the Israeli settlement activity has dramatically increased since the U.S. administration had shown less pressure against settlement expansion and Israeli domestic politics have correspondingly pushed for more activity.
- On 15 October, [Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights](#) issued a press release to mark the International Day of the Rural Women, highlighting its work with Palestinian rural women in the Gaza Strip and informed about a photo gallery and a fact sheet highlighting the repercussions of the Israeli-imposed restricted-access area and the poverty that Israel’s unlawful closure promotes.
- On 14 October, [Addameer – Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#) and others issued the press release “New Israeli Legislation to Criminalize Anti Occupation Human Rights Work” denouncing the introduction of a draft bill to amend Article 114C of Israeli Penal Law, broadening the definition of foreign agents. Addameer warned that, seen in the context of the anti-BDS act and the so-called NGO funding transparency law, this bill, if enacted, is “a dangerous escalation not only by reinforcing the shrinking space reality, but by turning human rights work into a criminal offence.”

- On 13 October, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights \(PCHR\)](#) denounced the decision of Israel's Supreme Court to deny the immediate release of the Palestinian administrative detainee on hunger strike Maher Al-Akhras. PCHR criticised that the Court did not consider the fact of Mr. Al-Akhras' deteriorating health condition.
- On 12 October, the [Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies](#) published the conclusions of its regional forum "Prospects of Reform in the Arab Region in Post COVID-19 Realities", on 31 August to 7 September that brought together over 50 human rights defenders, civil society and academic experts from the Arab world, Europe and the United States.
- On 11 October, [Adalah – The Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights in Israel](#) published the report "The Colonial Heritage of Israel's Police" in the framework of examining the events of October 2000 and their historic impact. It stated that "the Israeli police's approach to Palestinian citizens is inextricably linked to the regime's political purpose, which in this case is the intention to preserve Jewish supremacy and control."
- On 11 October, [HaMoked – Centre for the Defence of the Individual](#) issued an update to inform that the Israeli Supreme Court dismissed the state's request for a further hearing on the judgment cancelling a punitive demolition order targeting a home in the northern West Bank. HaMoked informed that the Court President quoted the 2014 High Court of Justice ruling on the NGO's principled petition that use of this measure is allowed so long as its benefit "exceeds the damage it causes."
- On 10 October, [The Association for Civil Rights in Israel \(ACRI\)](#) issued the report "Freeze on Home Demolitions in Israel" informing about the Israeli Ministry of Justice's response to ACRI and Ir Amim's petition against home demolitions in East Jerusalem according to which it was decided "to adjust the enforcement policy of the planning and construction offenses to the state of emergency [...]" and to return to the emergency policy from March 2020, therefore freezing home demolition proceedings in East Jerusalem and Israel.

### Europe

- On 15 October, the [Association France Palestine Solidarité \(AFPS\)](#) issued a press release in support to the joint call against the imminent expulsion by Israel of human rights lawyer Saleh Hammouri. In line with the oral intervention of 60 organizations during the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council, AFPS called on the international community to act in protection of Palestinian human rights defenders and to prevent the arbitrary deportation of Mr. Hamouri from Jerusalem.

### North America

- On 19 October, the [Columbia University Palestine Studies Centre](#) will hold the talk "Separating Families as a Tool of Coercion: Palestine and the US" with Attorney Tarek Ismail as part of the Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility (CLEAR)

project, which aims to address the legal needs of Muslim, Arab, South Asian and other communities in the New York City area that are particularly affected by national security and counterterrorism policies and practices deployed by various law enforcement agencies.

- On 15 October, the [Foundation for the Middle East Peace \(FMEP\)](#) held a series of webinars including “The Upcoming US Election: What’s at Stake for the Peace Camp” and “What’s at Stake. Israel/Palestine & the US Election”.
- On 14 October, [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#) announced the launch of this year’s Rooting Resistance campaign to continue supporting Palestinian farmers, as they struggle to cope with the instability brought on by COVID-19, coupled with the challenges of living under Israeli military occupation.

### **United Nations**

- On 15 October, [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process Nickolay Mladenov](#) issued a statement on the advancement of settlement units in the occupied West Bank. He said that the significant number and location of advancements was of great concern to all those who remain committed to advancing Israeli-Palestinian peace and that such moves undermine the prospect of achieving a viable two-State solution. He called on the authorities to cease immediately all settlement-related activities.
- On 12 October, [UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini](#) presented the annual report to the General Assembly on the work of UNRWA for Palestine refugees in the Middle East before the Special and Decolonization Committee. He warned that the constant cash flow crisis and structural underfunding were unsettling for Palestine refugees, for UNRWA staff and for host governments and that the Agency and its partners were spending far too much and energy on managing the crisis. He referred to the resolution of the GA on the Assistance to Palestine refugees, which affirmed last year the necessity for the continuation of the work of UNRWA and called for the Member States’ diplomatic engagement as indispensable to guarantee a predictable UNRWA “to ensure that no Palestine refugee is left behind and to advance the development and stability of the region.”

*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>