

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

## NGO Action News

19 November 2020

### Middle East

- On 18 November, [Al-Haq](#) issued a press release to denounce the US Secretary of State's visit to the illegal Israeli settlement Psagot. The statement reminded the United States of its international legal duty of nonrecognition of the illegal activities of Israel in the OPT as well as third State obligations stemming from the nonrecognition to not help, aid, or maintain the illegal situation.
- On 18 November, [BADIL – Resource Centre for Palestinian Residency & Refugee Rights](#) issued a press release to welcome the UN Decolonization Committee's reaffirmation of the inalienable rights of Palestine refugees. BADIL took note of the adoption of draft resolutions by the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly addressing Palestine refugees' inalienable rights to humanitarian protection and durable solutions, including return.
- On 16 November, the director of [B'Tselem](#) addressed the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) and spoke about the urgent need for determined European action to clarify that Israel will bear consequences for violating the rights of the Palestinian people.
- On 16 November, the [Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies \(CIHRS\)](#) participated in an exchange of views on recent human rights developments in Palestine, organized by the Subcommittee for Human Rights at the European Parliament (DROI) and in association with the Delegation for Relations with Palestine of the Parliament (DPAL). In its intervention, CIHRS focused on Israel's rapidly-growing settlement enterprise and the associated economic and corporate actors' significant role in contributing to the economic viability of settlements. It also emphasized the need for the EU and Member States, as one of Israel's main trading partners, to take immediate and effective measures to bring settlements, annexation and the occupation to an end by disrupting the economic structures incentivising them.
- On 15 November, [Peace Now](#) informed that the Israeli Ministry of Housing and Land Authority opened the bidding process for 1,257 housing units to be built in Givat Hamatos. Peace Now criticized the construction in Givat Hamatos for severely hampering the prospect of a two-State solution, as it will ultimately block the possibility of territorial contiguity between East Jerusalem and Bethlehem – the main Palestinian metropolitan area – and will prevent the Palestinian town of Beit Safafa from connecting with a future Palestinian State.

- On 11 November, [Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Gisha – Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement and Adalah – The Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights in Israel](#) sent an urgent letter to the Israeli Defence Minister, Attorney-General and Military Advocate General demanding an immediate halt to Israel’s damaging of farmland in the Gaza Strip, an investigation into the recent incursions and compensation to Gaza farmers for the damage incurred. The letter was addressed in response to Israeli military bulldozers’ incursions about 300 meters into the Gaza Strip on 13 October, causing severe damage to Gaza farmlands.
- On 11 November, [Gisha – Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement](#) provided an update on the situation of Rafah and Erez crossings under the lockdown. Gisha explained that exit from Gaza via Rafah Crossing was subject to narrow criteria set by Egypt (patients with referrals for medical treatments); Erez Crossings is still under a lockdown imposed by Israel and travel through it is severely restricted; and Kerem Shalom Crossing, Gaza’s only commercial crossing, is operating as usual for movement of goods in both directions.
- On 10 November, [four Palestinian and regional human rights organizations](#) submitted a joint urgent appeal to the UN Special Procedures on the escalating water and sanitation crisis in the Gaza Strip. The appeal highlighted the sharp deterioration of the water and sanitation conditions in Gaza resulting from the increased punitive measures imposed by Israel against the civilian population in August 2020.

### Europe

- On 17 November, the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine \(ECCP\)](#) issued a summary of the last report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied Since 1967, stating that the report makes a strong point in addressing the responsibility of the UN Security Council and private companies to make Israel accountable for its violations, therefore opening new perspectives to end impunity.

### North America

- On 16 November, [J Street](#) condemned the construction in Givat Hamatos as part of a deliberate settlement movement strategy to cut off Palestinian neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem from the West Bank Palestinian city of Bethlehem, in order to further undermine the prospects for a contiguous Palestinian state alongside Israel. J Street said the announcement followed several other recent measures to step up creeping annexation and erase the distinction between Israel and the territory it occupied beyond the Green Line.
- On 15 November, [Americans for Peace Now \(APN\)](#) issued a press release urging US Secretary of State Pompeo to cancel his visit to an Israeli settlement during an upcoming trip to the region this week. APN stated that the official visit by a US Secretary of State to an Israeli settlement in the West Bank is damaging in several ways as it attempts to legitimize similar settlements in the West Bank, contradicting a consensus position held by international

law experts, while sending a message that the United States endorses violations of Palestinian rights.

### **United Nations**

- On 1 and 2 December, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) will observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People for 2020 to commemorate the adoption by the Assembly, on 29 November 1947, of Resolution 181, which provided for the partition of Palestine into two States. The observance is held annually at United Nations Headquarters, the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna and elsewhere. The event includes an annual debate of the General Assembly on the question of Palestine and special meetings at which statements on the question of Palestine are made by high-level officials of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations and representatives of civil society.
- On 18 November, [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov](#) briefed the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. He stated that Gaza remained the most immediate and pressing concern. Its crumbling infrastructure, poor living conditions and fragile healthcare system make it ill-equipped to face a major spike in cases. He welcomed the Palestinian Government’s decision to restart civilian and security coordination with Israel and expressed his appreciation to Israel for confirming that existing bilateral agreements continue to govern relations between both parties, particularly in the context of economic, security and civilian affairs. He spoke of the Israeli authorities’ opening of the bidding process for construction of 1,200 housing units in the Givat Hamatos settlement as a concerning development. He urged the international community to act swiftly and provide the necessary resources for UNRWA to continue delivering its vital services, helping prevent serious risks to stability that the region simply cannot afford. He concluded it was imperative that the Middle East Quartet, key Arab partners, and Israeli and Palestinian leaders build upon recent developments in the region and urgently re-engage on returning to the path of meaningful negotiations.
- On 16 November, [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov](#) issued a statement on the settlement expansion in Givat Hamatos, “If built, it would further consolidate a ring of settlements between Jerusalem and Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank. It would significantly damage prospects for a future contiguous Palestinian State and for achieving a negotiated two-State solution based on the 1967 lines, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states.”
- On 12 November, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) held the virtual panel “International Parliamentarians and the Question of Palestine”, highlighting the work of parliamentarians Betty McCollum, Mar­ía Arena and Mandla Mandela from three different continents – Africa, Europe and North America – in support of the attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people while promoting a just resolution of the question of Palestine and leading to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in peace and security.

*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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