

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

## **NGO Action News**

**22 April 2021**

### **Middle East**

- On 20 April, [Al-Haq](#) informed that a group of 16 Palestinian and regional civil society organisations had sent a joint submission to the UN Secretary-General, highlighting Israel's attacks against civil society organisations and human rights defenders, carried out between May 2020 and April 2021, for their work in the field of human rights, including with the UN.
- On 17 April, on the occasion of Palestinian Prisoner's Day, [Al Mezan Center for Human Rights](#) issued a call on the international community to end torture and ill-treatment of Palestinians in Israeli prisons and detention centres and ensure respect for right to health.
- On 17 April, [Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#) assisted in organizing and participated in an open classroom webinar "#FreeThemAll: In Sumoud and Solidarity from the U.S. to Palestine", which was co-hosted by Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi, Director of the AMED program at San Francisco State University, and Diana Block, founder of the California Coalition for Women Prisoners. The webinar served to highlight political prisoners' voices, discuss the broader role of Israeli military courts in maintaining apartheid, and analyse the links of solidarities between the U.S.-based prison abolition movement and the thousands of Palestinian women and men imprisoned by Israel.
- On 20 April, [Adalah](#) informed that the NGO is working together with Al-Haq and Birzeit University to end an escalating discriminatory Israeli policy aimed at preventing international academics from staying in the West Bank and refusing to renew visas for those with teaching contracts.
- On 18, April [Peace Now](#) issued the report "Do Not Settle! Why there are No 'Legitimate' Settlements", showing how any settlement development hinders the possibility of a viable Palestinian state, and how any attempt to draw a line between 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate' settlements would only give further legitimacy to the settlement project as a whole and may destroy the chances for peace.
- On 17 April, [Peace Now](#) informed that together with Emek Shave and Ir Amim it had issued a Joint Action Alert on "The Threat of Mass Palestinian Displacement in East Jerusalem", which highlights that, since the beginning of 2020, the Israeli courts authorized the evictions of 36 Palestinian families, totaling 165 individuals, dozens of them children, from their homes in the Batan al-Hawa, Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhoods in favour of illegal Israeli settlers and that more than 100 families are in various stages of proceedings in

eviction lawsuits filed against them by settler organizations. This is putting more than 1,000 Palestinians at risk of becoming homeless with neither compensation nor alternative housing and an obligation to cover exorbitant legal fees that would cause a humanitarian disaster for the families, as well as carry far-reaching political ramifications on the prospect of peace and the stability of Jerusalem.

### **United Nations**

- On 22 April, the Chair of the Committee, Ambassador Cheikh Niang (Senegal), provided a statement to the quarterly Security Council debate on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question. In his statement, Ambassador Niang welcomed the upcoming Palestinian legislative and presidential elections as they “represent a crucial step to broaden the political space for Palestinians, as well as civil society organizations, allowing them to participate fully in the democratic life of the State of Palestine.” He informed about the recent Committee virtual event with UNRWA, highlighting the strong support for the Agency. Ambassador Niang also highlighted the ongoing negative trends on the ground, among them the expansion of the illegal Israel settlement enterprise in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). On the issue of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Chair urged Israel, the occupying Power “to abide by its responsibilities under international law, to provide prompt and adequate vaccines protection to all in the OPT to avoid the spread of the virus and cause further damage to the health and socio-economic wellbeing of the Palestinian population under occupation.”
- On 22 April, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Tor Wennesland](#) delivered a briefing at the quarterly Security Council debate on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question. In his briefing Mr. Wennesland highlighted the ongoing electoral processes in Israel and Palestine and stressed that “[a]ll sides must provide for and protect the right of Palestinians across the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza to participate in credible and inclusive Palestinian elections, as well as to stand for elections, free from intimidation.” He also expressed his concern over the continuing threat of the Covid-19 pandemic, and especially over “the significant rise in active cases in Gaza where the daily infection rate is reaching its highest level since the onset of the pandemic.”

*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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