

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

NGO Action News

28 July 2022

Middle East

- On 4 August, [7amleh](#) will organise a webinar to discuss the international campaign PayPal4Palestine aiming at pressuring PayPal to open up services to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Speakers from 7amleh, SumOfUs, MPower Change, and Foundation for Middle East Peace will share insights about the importance of the campaign, reflections on recent wins surrounding corporate accountability and Palestine, and public activism.
- On 21 July, [Addameer](#) informed that the association took part in discussions with the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories as it conducted its annual mission in Amman, Jordan from 4 to 7 July 2022. In its oral briefing presented to the Special Committee, Addameer specifically highlighted how Israel violated international law and utilizes practices of administrative detention, arbitrary arrests, medical neglect and torture in Israeli prisons, and the criminalization of human rights defenders and civil society organizations as tactics to maintain the subjugation and oppression of the Palestinian people.
- On 21 July, [Adalah](#) and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) criticized a recent decision by the Israeli Supreme Court to uphold a law authorizing the Israeli Interior Minister, to revoke the citizenship of Israeli citizens convicted of offenses that constitute a "breach of loyalty" to the state. The organizations stated that this decision is dangerous as it paves the way for the use of an illegitimate law that violates international law.
- On 20 July, [al-Haq](#) and [Addameer](#) published a statement from the six Palestinian civil society organizations designated by Israel as "terror organizations". The organizations welcomed recent steps taken by several countries and law makers to protest this designation and called on states to pressure Israel to dissolve its decision against the organizations including the military order issued to outlaw their work in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The statement highlighted that U.S Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley led a letter on 18 July to U.S State Department, along with 21 of her Congress colleagues, urging Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines to publicly reject Israel's decision against the six Palestinian CSOs, and further call on Israel to reverse its course. Previously, on July 12th, the spokespersons of the Foreign Ministries of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden issued a [joint statement](#) in support of the six prominent civil society and human rights organizations.

- On 20 July, the [Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Centre](#) (JLAC) informed that it has sent a joint communication with the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians to request the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the Israeli Forces systematic policy of withholding the bodies of deceased Palestinians. This joint Communication was sent on behalf of eight Palestinian individuals regarding the bodies of their deceased relatives. The Communication was sent to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief; the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers.
- On 20 July, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) published the report “State of the Gaza Strip Border Crossings,” covering the period 1 – 30 June 2022. PCHR stated that the ongoing closure has undermined health, education, and sanitation services available for the people of the Gaza Strip as the restrictions imposed on the movement of individuals prevented thousands of patients from receiving the medical treatment that is not available in the Gaza Strip. These restrictions aggravated the economic and social conditions in Gaza as the poverty rate reached 53 per cent while more than 64.4 per cent of the Gaza population suffers from food insecurity.

Europe

- On 22 July, [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) published an article informing that 38 Members of the French Parliament submitted a resolution proposal condemning the institutionalization of an apartheid system against the Palestinian people. This signatory members called for the immediately ends this system of oppression and domination against Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in Israel, and requested the French Government to recognize the State of Palestine.
- On 19 July, [Amnesty International](#) published an article stating that the Israeli authorities must immediately halt the forcible eviction of more than 1,000 residents from Masafer Yatta, a Palestinian community in the occupied West Bank. Amnesty International informed that the Israeli army has repeatedly harassed people in the area for weeks, demolished homes and placed restrictions on freedom of movement. Inside Israel, the authorities must recognize the housing rights of Palestinian Bedouin citizens in the Negev/Naqab desert, who saw their village, al-‘Araqib, demolished again on 19 July. Amnesty International expressed concerns that the housing rights of Bedouin citizens in Israel are not respected, and that they are discriminated against with regard to other economic, social and cultural rights as well, a policy aimed at maintaining Israel’s system of oppression and domination over Palestinians.

North America

- On 2 August, the [People’s Forum](#) will organize the event “Teach In: History of Palestinian Resistance”. This event will be held as a hybrid open class.

- On 21 July, [J Street](#) issued a statement welcoming the action by Israeli Defense Minister Gantz, Minister of Public Security Bar-Lev, the IDF and Israeli police to dismantle and remove several settlement outposts that radical settlers recently attempted to establish throughout the occupied West Bank. J Street informed that the radical settler organization Nachala attempted to establish these outposts in several West Bank locations, in direct contravention of Israeli law – reportedly dispatching several thousand activists and families to attempt to illegally seize territory in Area C. J Street further stated that the attempt to establish more illegal outposts was just the latest clear evidence that the settlement movement sees itself as above the law and is willing to seize territory even without governmental authority or approval. Meanwhile, settler leaders and right-wing politicians continue to also work within the Israeli political and legal system to expand recognized settlements, seize Palestinian land, and displace Palestinian communities.
- On 19 July, [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) (CMEP) published an article regretting that the visit of President Joe Biden to Israel and Palestine did little to advance the cause of peace. CMEP stated that the President said almost nothing about the abuses committed by Israel against Palestinians and urged the Biden administration to follow up on this visit with more explicit, more direct public statements, to be backed by tangible actions if necessary. CMEP added that the President must act immediately to ensure that those complicit in the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh are identified and held fully accountable. Further, CMEP declared that President Biden must demand that there be no expansions of settlements and no forcible expulsions of Palestinians from Masafer Yatta or anywhere else in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- On 18 July, [Americans for Peace Now](#) published an article informing that Representative Ayanna Pressley led 21 of her colleagues in sending a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, expressing serious concern for the six Palestinian human rights organizations Israel designated as “terrorist organizations”. The letter requests an inter-agency briefing to discuss this designation and the secret evidence distributed by the Israeli government. The letter urges Secretary Blinken and Director Haines to call on the Israeli government to reverse course, confirm a date for an inter-agency briefing with members of Congress, provide a report to Congress on these efforts within 30 days, and ultimately reject this decision publicly.

United Nations

- On 26 July, Ambassador Arrmanatha C. Nasir, the [Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#), delivered the Committee’s statement to the Security Council during the open debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question. Ambassador Nasir raised several issues affecting Palestinians, including violence against civilians, the protection of children and human rights defenders, and concurred with the June 2022 findings of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and

Israel. The Committee called on the Security Council to clearly and firmly reiterate its demands that the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, immediately end all settlement expansions, demolitions, confiscations of Palestinian property and the forcible removal of civilians. The [Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Lynn Hastings, also briefed the Security Council, covering the reporting period of 27 June – 21 July. She stated that while the specific developments of the conflict fluctuate, the structural reality has not changed. She also stressed that U.S. President Biden’s visit to the region earlier this month signalled renewed consensus for a two-State solution based on the 1967 lines.

- On 25-26 July, the [Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) organized a two-day Communication Strategy Workshop for officials of the Government of the State of Palestine. The Workshop took place in Amman, Jordan, in cooperation with the Prime Minister’s Office of the State of Palestine. The Chair of the Committee, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, attended the opening ceremony of the workshop, which had 21 high-ranking representatives from the 20 Palestinian Government agencies. The workshop curriculum comprised four main topics: strategic thinking, understanding the audience, developing key messages, and delivering meaningful communications.
- On 22 July, [UNISPAL](#) published the report “Palestine Under Occupation III, Mapping Israel’s Policies and Practices and their Economic Repercussions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”, produced by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). ESCWA stressed that Israel’s policies and practices constitute a matrix control of the land and domination of the people that has undermined the Palestinian economy, leading to its evisceration, as well as to asymmetric dependency on Israel. The report further highlights that these practices entail grave violations of international law and deprives the Palestinians of their basic right to self-determination, adding that a rights-based approach to the Question of Palestine, grounded in international law and human rights, has become vital.

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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