

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

## **NGO Action News**

**6 February 2020**

### **Middle East**

- On 7 February, [Addameer – Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#) published the paper “Arrests on Charges of ‘Incitement’ on Social Media Platforms and Israeli Government Policy: A Facebook Case Study”. Addameer highlights escalating systematic and repeated arrests targeting Palestinians exercising their right to freedom of expression on social media platforms like Facebook, and analyzes the laws defining incitement in the Israeli penal code and the Israeli military orders imposed on Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.
- On 4 February, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights \(PCHR\)](#) issued a press release condemning ongoing Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen sailing within the allowed fishing area off Gaza and called the Israeli Naval Forces to release those arrested and compensate them for the damage to their property resulting from these attacks.
- On 3 February, [Al-Haq, BADIL, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Community Action Center, Defense for Children International Palestine and other civil society organizations](#) submitted a joint statement ahead of the 43rd regular session of the UN Human Rights Council on 24 February. The statement, falling under item 9 of the Council’s agenda on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, highlights Israel’s “apartheid regime of systematic racial oppression and domination over the Palestinian people as a whole”.
- On 3 February, [Gisha – Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement](#) criticized the decision of the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) to freeze trader permits issued to Gaza residents allowing them to exit from the Gaza Strip. The NGO called on Israel to recognize its obligations towards residents of Gaza and stop using their fundamental rights as bargaining chips.
- On 30 January, [Ir Amim](#) published the position paper “From Creeping to Formal Annexation: Israel’s Actions under American Auspices to Actualize ‘Greater Jerusalem’”, which warned against Israel’s “Greater Jerusalem” policy that will not only affect the future of Jerusalem, but also the entire Israeli-Palestinian conflict and “will consign both Israelis and Palestinians alike to an accelerating permanent apartheid reality.”
- On 28 January, [Al-Haq](#) submitted its recommendations to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in connection with the Committee’s first periodic review of the State of Palestine. The Al-Haq report highlighted the issues of arbitrary detention of children,

domestic and societal violence against children, and issues related to alternative care institutions, the juvenile justice system, child registration and family reunification in East Jerusalem.

### **Europe**

- On 28 January, the [Palestinian Return Centre \(PRC\)](#) issued a statement on the US Plan for the Middle East, rejecting and condemning the initiative as an endorsement of “Israeli apartheid, military occupation and settler colonialism.” PRC also condemned the UK Government for welcoming the proposal, which goes against the UK official position of support to a two-State solution based on the 1967 borders and its rejection of annexation. PRC also rejected the proposal’s compensation framework and the creation of a “Palestinian Refugee Trust” and reiterated that Palestinian refugees will continue to demand return and their legitimate rights until they are implemented.

### **North America**

- On 11 February, [The SETA Foundation](#) in Washington, D.C., will host an event to discuss the US Plan, with a panel including Lara Friedman (Foundation for Middle East Peace) and Khaled Elgindy (Middle East Institute).
- On 4 February, [Human Rights Watch](#) issued a report on IDF and Palestinian armed groups’ strikes in 2019, which led to civilian casualties in the Gaza Strip and shared the results of its investigations which covered different sites including Al-Zeitoun, Deir al-Balah and Al-Shaaf neighbourhoods. Human Rights Watch underlined that international law prohibits indiscriminate attacks not directed against a military objective and requires combatants, when targeting military objectives, to take all feasible precautions to avoid civilian casualties.

### **United Nations**

- On 28 and 29 February, the [United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#), in cooperation with the Government of Malaysia and the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF), will convene an international conference under the theme “[Southeast Asian Support for the Rights of the Palestinian People](#)” in Kuala Lumpur. The event, which will bring together Palestinian and international experts, will seek to foster relations between Southeast Asian civil society and Palestinian and international organizations that work towards the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people.
- On 31 January, the [Special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 Michael Lynk](#) issued a press release to condemn the US Plan as “a lopsided proposal entirely in favour of one side to the conflict.”

*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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