

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

NGO Action News

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Middle East

- During the reporting period, several organizations published articles on Israel's recent military offensive in the Gaza Strip. On 8 August, [al-Haq](#) stated that it considers that this indiscriminate and disproportionate attack on Palestinian civilians violates international humanitarian law. Such attacks, and their widespread and systematic nature may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. [Al-Haq](#) also sent an urgent appeal to UN Special Procedures, calling for an immediate and urgent intervention to cease the escalation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian supplies. The [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) published regular updates on the situation and emphasized that these strikes violate the principles of necessity and proportionality required while conducting directed attacks against densely populated areas and use of weapons; they are grave breaches of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and amount to war crimes. [Al Mezan](#) published similar articles and press releases on the situation. In addition, [Gisha](#), [Adalah](#), Physicians for Human Rights – Israel and Al Mezan sent an urgent letter to Israel's Minister of Defense, Attorney General, and the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, demanding they take action to put an immediate stop to the killing and harming of Gaza's civilian population.
- On 1 August, [Ir Amim](#) published the report "Implications of the 'Silicon Wadi' Plan – the Planned High-Tech Hub for Wadi Joz", providing an update on the Wadi Joz Business Park plan, promoted by the Jerusalem Municipality as "Silicon Wadi". The initiative calls for the establishment of a major high-tech hub along the western side of East Jerusalem's Wadi Joz neighborhood in place of its current commercial and industrial center. Ir Amim further informed that the plan will require the eviction and demolition of current Palestinian businesses, possible land expropriations, and will potentially extend the ring of settlements within Palestinian neighborhoods around the Old City, establishing an Israeli stronghold on its northeastern side.
- On 1 August, [BADIL](#) concluded its third annual International Mobilization Course on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The course was held over 10 days and included 20 international human rights defenders, advocates, activists, mobilizers and policy officers from across the world. The aim of the course was to strengthen international mobilization through enhancing participants' advocacy skills, while giving them the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of the reality in Palestine.

- During the reporting period, the [Association of International Development Agencies](#) (AIDA) published its “Bulletin on Humanitarian Relief Obstruction, Defamation of Civil Society Organizations, Human Rights and Humanitarian Actors.” This report highlighted several trends and issues including the deteriorating state of humanitarian access globally and in Palestine, and updates on the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry highlighting attacks on civic space in the OPT and Israel.

North America

- On 15 August, the [People’s Forum](#) and the Institute for De-Colonising Theory will organize online the open class “History of Palestinian Resistance.” This course will cover the continuous history of Palestinian resistance and the position of Palestine in global anti-imperialist politics and history.
- On 11 August, [Americans for Peace Now](#) (APN) will organise the webinar “Occupation Bureaucracy- A New Report on Israel’s Civil Administration”, to discuss [Breaking the Silence](#)’s latest report. According to APN, Israel’s occupation of the West Bank is chiefly sustained through a broad bureaucratic web made of permits and documents that Palestinians need for almost every aspect of their lives under occupation. This new report by Breaking the Silence describes these methods through testimonies of soldiers who served in the Civil Administration and the office of the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), the Israeli government agencies that run the civilian aspects of the occupation.
- On 9 August, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) published an article informing that the Israeli Ministry of Defense threatened attorneys representing Palestinian civil society organizations. According to the Jerusalem Fund, prior to an appeal hearing for Al-Haq and Defence for Children International–Palestine (DCI-P), attorneys Michael Sfard and Avigdor Feldman received a letter claiming that representing their clients and seeking due process constituted a violation of Israel’s 2016 Counter-Terrorism Law. The article also recalled that the EU investigated the Israeli terrorist designation against six Palestinian organisations and found no evidence to substantiate the claims.
- On 8 August, [J Street](#) issued a statement welcoming the ceasefire reached between Israel and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. J Street further called on all parties to de-escalate the situation while working to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza which only worsens after such rounds of fighting, adding that there is no military solution to this conflict. Only a resolution to the conflict that fulfils the legitimate national rights of both peoples can ensure lasting security. [Americans for Peace Now](#) also published an article on this issue, titled “Hard Questions, Tough Answers- Operation Breaking Dawn: Another Round of Fighting with Gaza.” In addition, the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) published a statement urging parties to cease fire at once as international law prohibits the use or threat of force, except in self-defence.

- On 4 August, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) published the article “Student Led Movements”, highlighting that students in the United States have played catalytic and leading roles in shaping the national and international discourse and foreign policies regarding human rights and social justice causes, including on the support to Palestinians. The article provides details on the Palestinian Youth Movement and Students for Justice in Palestine, two of the largest organizations across the nation concerned with Palestinian human rights.
- On 3 August, [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) (CMEP) issued a statement calling on the US Administration to condemn the legalization of the Mitzpe Kramim outpost. CMEP informed that Israel’s Supreme Court ruled on 27 July against the evacuation of settlers in an outpost of the settlement Mitzpe Kramim, built on private Palestinian land. This ruling sets a new legal standard, potentially applicable throughout Area C of the West Bank, that settlement outposts built on private Palestinian land can and should be deemed legal and remain the property of the settlers if there is no legal decision affirming private Palestinian ownership when settlers attempt to purchase it. This precedent could motivate further settlement outpost expansion and weakens Palestinians’ capacity to protect their land in Area C.

United Nations

- On 7 August the Spokesperson for [UN Secretary-General](#) issued a statement welcoming the announcement of a ceasefire in Gaza and Israel, stating that the Secretary-General is deeply saddened by the loss of life and injuries, including children, from airstrikes in Gaza and the indiscriminate firing of rockets toward Israel from population centres in Gaza by Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other militant groups. The Secretary-General called on all sides to observe the ceasefire and reaffirmed the United Nations’ commitment to the achievement of the two-State solution based on relevant United Nations resolutions, international law, and prior agreements and the importance of restoring a political horizon. On 8 August, the Bureau of the [United Nations General Assembly Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) (CEIRPP) issued a statement welcoming the ceasefire agreement in Gaza. The CEIRPP Bureau further appealed for the immediate lifting of the siege against Gaza as well as for the start of negotiations leading to an end to Israel’s occupation of the Palestinian territory and the implementation of two-State solution based on relevant UN resolutions and international law. In addition, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, briefed the Security Council on the situation in Gaza during an emergency session held on 8 August.

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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