

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

## NGO Action News

12 July 2019

### Middle East

- On 11 July, [Al-Haq](#) announced the conclusion of its fifth International Law Summer School Programme in Ramallah. Over two weeks, 24 participants from 18 different countries attended lectures, field visits and engaged in discussions with civil society and human rights organizations on various topics impacting lives of Palestinians.
- On 11 July, [Adalah – The Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights in Israel](#) reported about a joint letter issued by six UN Special Rapporteurs, including on minority issues and on adequate housing, to Israel in May 2019, on their serious concerns about the Israeli government’s plans to forcibly displace 36,000 Bedouin citizens living in the Negev. The letter also raised concerns about the detention of a Bedouin human rights defender and leader of Al-Araqib village, for his protests against home demolitions and forced evictions.
- On 11 July, [Adalah – The Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, Al-Haq and Birzeit University](#) reported on their fight “to end 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.” The institutions are taking legal action against what they perceive as Israel’s “intensified efforts to force international lecturers to leave the country,” in violation of the right to freedom of education under “military occupation”.
- On 9 July, [Al-Haq](#) issued a statement on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the International Court of Justice’s Advisory Opinion on the “Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”. Al-Haq stated that the anniversary highlights the “failure of the international community to act in accordance with their obligations as third States to respect and to ensure respect for international humanitarian law, to ensure the realisation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and to cooperate to bring to an end serious breaches of international law committed against the protected Palestinian population”.
- On 9 July, [B’Tselem](#) reported about a joint letter by six Israeli human rights organizations – B’Tselem, Gisha, Adalah, Physicians for Human Rights-Israel, Yesh Din, Breaking the Silence and HaMoked – to the President of the German Parliament to express “serious concerns regarding the recent motion adopted by the Bundestag that condemns the BDS movement and even wrongfully equates it with antisemitism.” The letter stated that by equating BDS and anti-Semitism the motion echoes the position of the Israeli government,

which “has been working hard to use false accusations of anti-Semitism to discredit the Palestinian struggle for freedom.”

- On 7 July, [BADIL Resource Centre for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights](#) concluded several trainings in the framework of its project on “Enhancing Youth Palestinian Refugee Identity, Cohesion, and Human Rights Based Approach at the Local and International Level”. The project aims to reinforce the connections between Palestinian youth from both sides of the Green Line and enhance their awareness, engagement, and understanding of the right to return.
- On 4 July, [The Association for Civil Rights in Israel](#) (ACRI) published a letter to the Commander of the Jerusalem District Police, demanding that the police “moderate its harsh policy against the residents of [Issawiya Jerusalem] neighbourhood and its policy of selective enforcement, which includes arrests, night-time raids, the inspection of every vehicle [...]”

### **North America**

- On 10 July, [Friends of Mossawa Centre \(USA\)](#) published a report on the NGOs’ North America tour in June, including meetings and events in Washington, D.C., Toronto, Ottawa, New York and New Jersey. Throughout the tour, the NGO promoted the voices of Arab Palestinians citizens of Israel among the public and policy-makers, with a focus on the US administration’s peace plan, Israel’s Jewish Nation-State Law and Mossawa’s vision for social justice, self-determination and civil rights in discussions on Israel and Palestine.

### **United Nations**

- On 12 July, the [UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory since 1967](#) voiced concern about lack of human rights accountability in the occupied Palestinian territory, pointing to the actions of “an occupying power seemingly bent on further territorial annexation.” The Special Rapporteur referred to his meetings in Amman where he was informed about shrinking civic space and the difficulties faced by human rights organizations in carrying out their work; the ongoing risk of demolitions in the West Bank and their sharp rise in East Jerusalem. He also reported on additional issues of concern including the situation of Palestinian refugees, settler violence punitive residency revocation, movement restrictions, and access to education and attacks on education.
- On 9 July, the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) published the report “Threat of Demolitions in East Jerusalem”. The report focuses on the case of Sur Bahir, a Palestinian neighbourhood in East Jerusalem, where the Israeli authorities continue to demolish Palestinian structures on the grounds of lack of building permits. OCHA quoted the 2004 International Court of Justice’s Advisory Opinion on the “Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”, which called on Member States “not to recognize the illegal situation resulting from the

construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem.”

*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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