

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

## NGO Action News

18 August 2022

### Middle East

- On 18 August, [al-Haq](#) reported that Israeli Security Forces raided the offices of the six Palestinian civil society organisations designated as “terrorist organizations” by Israel, confiscated their properties and closed them down. Al-Haq also called on the international community to immediately intervene to protect the six designated organisations, whose finances and assets risk being confiscated, and their staff members, directly targeted, arbitrarily arrested and imprisoned. [B’Tselem](#) reported on the incident as well, expressing solidarity with the targeted Palestinian organizations.
- On 16 August, [Peace Now](#) informed that the plan to establish a new settlement west of the Israeli settlement of Ariel (“Ariel West”), located near the Palestinian city of Salfit in the West Bank, is progressing. The Israeli Civil Administration is expected to discuss on 18 August a plan to amend the route of the access road to the new settlement. Peace Now warned that the “Ariel West” plan is not just a plan for thousands of housing units, but it is a new settlement designed to block the town of Salfit and prevent the development of Palestinian space in the area.
- On 15 August, [Gisha](#) published the article “Who will answer the questions of Gaza’s children?” In this article, Hikmat Yusef, a Palestinian journalist from the Gaza Strip, wrote about Israel's recent assault, the fears it evoked, and its acute psychological impact on Gaza’s children.
- On 12 August, [al-Haq](#) published a statement endorsed by Palestinian, Regional and International organizations expressing their full support and pledging their ongoing cooperation with the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel (COI), which has been under mounting attack led by Israel, including recent smearing of its work and members. These organizations called on all States to provide the utmost political, institutional and material support, and to engage in good faith with the mandate of the COI, to enable this important accountability mechanism to continue with its mandate unhindered. [Addameer](#) published the statement as well.
- The [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) published the report “Erasing the Nakba, Upholding Apartheid: Atrocity Denial in the U.S. Media.” In this instalment of the Current Issues in Depth series, Greg Shupak (teacher at the University of Guelph-Humber in Toronto) discussed the systemic denial of the Nakba in US media. The author argued that coverage

was almost devoid of historical context for the Palestinian situation and claimed that this denial and lack of historical context uphold racist structures of apartheid in the Occupied Palestine Territory.

### **Europe**

- On 18 August, [Law for Palestine](#), in partnership with the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD), will organize the webinar “Anti-Palestinian Racism: Motives, Manifestations and Solutions”. Panellists will discuss the concept of Anti-Palestinian Racism, a term recently used, set out and framed comprehensively in a Canadian report released in April 2022. The report defines Anti-Palestinian Racism as a form of anti-Arab racism that silences, excludes, erases, stereotypes, defames or dehumanizes Palestinians or their narratives.
- On 12 August, the [Palestinian Return Centre](#) participated in the Féile An Phobail’s panel discussion on ‘Palestine in 2022’ in Belfast. Participants spoke on the importance of land to the livelihoods of Palestinians; the current dire situation Palestinian refugees face in Lebanon, Syria and within Palestine; and on the online censorship that Palestinians and Palestinian activists face on social media platforms.
- On 10 August, the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine](#) (ECCP) published a letter addressed to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, following the recent Israeli air strikes on Gaza. ECCP argued that the international community, including the EU, has a responsibility to protect civilians, since Israel as the occupying Power is waging a war of aggression against them. ECCP further asked for the EU to implement sanctions against Israel, to force the unconditional lifting of the blockade of Gaza and to cease all violations of human rights and international law.
- On 10 August, [Law for Palestine](#) published an article informing that it has organized in partnership with the Arab Alliance for Rights and Development (ARDD) a webinar titled “Absence of Palestine in the ICC: Why is Palestine “De-Prioritized”, and What is to be Done?”. The webinar, held on 26 June 2022, discussed the developments in the Palestinian Case before the ICC since the Pre-trial Chamber ruling last year providing jurisdiction for the Court to proceed with opening an investigation over crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Panellists further highlighted the concerning pace and ‘de-prioritization’ of the case, examining the reasons behind this paralysis and ways to put the case back on track.

### **North America**

- On 16 August, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast “Treated as subhuman, deprived of rights and dignity, Gazans need to heal, be heard, and be free”. In this episode of the series Occupied Thoughts, FMEP’s Sarah Anne Minkin spoke with Jihad Abusalim, FMEP Fellow and Education and Policy Coordinator of the Palestine Activism

Program at the American Friends Service Committee, about the aftermath of the most recent escalation in Gaza, the relationship between the Nakba and the ongoing violent realities of Gaza, and questions of how to talk about and envision Gaza within broader frameworks of Palestinian liberation and freedom.

- On 12 August, the [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#) (USCPR) published an article calling for the public to conduct advocacy in support of Palestinians in Gaza. USCPR stated that Palestinian people in Gaza have lived through an horrific situation following Israeli air strikes that reportedly killed at least 45 and wounding at least 350 Palestinians. USCPR called on the general public to contact the US Congress and to use social media to raise concerns over this situation as part of the campaign “What’s Happening in Gaza”. [Friends of Sabeel North America](#) also published an article titled “Gaza: Cruelty without consequences” showing pictures of the 16 children allegedly killed in Gaza during the Israeli airstrikes.
- On 10 August, [Americans for Peace Now](#) (APN) published the article “After the Ceasefire: From Conflict Management to Conflict Resolution.” The articles informed that a poll released recently by the Brookings Institute shows that over half of Americans do not know what the Biden administration’s position is on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. APN argued that the administration’s policy on this issue partially stems from Israel’s policy, which can be characterized as “conflict management” rather than conflict resolution. APN further added that the recent round of violence demonstrated that Israel does not have a long-term, vision-harnessed policy toward the Gaza Strip, or the West Bank.

### **United Nations**

- On 16 August, [UNRWA](#) informed that the European Union (EU) Representative to the West Bank and Gaza, Sven Kühn von Burgsdorff, and other EU Member States’ representatives visited UNRWA Beach Preparatory School in Gaza following the recent escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip. This visit coincided with the signing of the annual EU contribution to UNRWA Programme Budget for 2022. UNRWA informed that the EU will provide a contribution of EUR 97 million to support the human development work of the Agency in 2022.
- On 11 August, the [United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#), Michelle Bachelet, expressed alarm at the high number of Palestinians, including children, killed and injured in the Occupied Palestinian Territory this year, also during intense hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza. The UN Human Rights Chief said that in 2022, the widespread use of live ammunition by Israeli forces in law enforcement operations across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, has led to an alarming increase in Palestinian fatalities. The UN Human Rights Office in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has this year documented the killing of 74 Palestinians, including 20 children. The High Commissioner added that in many incidents Israeli forces used lethal force in a manner that appeared to be in violation of international human rights law, and called for prompt, independent, impartial, thorough and transparent investigations into all incidents where any person was killed or injured.

*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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