

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

NGO Action News

21 February 2020

Middle East

- On 20 February, [Al-Haq, Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Centre \(JLAC\) and Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#) held a briefing for the diplomatic community working in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT). The above Palestinian human rights organizations addressed the human rights situation in the OPT and provided updates on recent developments, including the proceedings before the International Criminal Court (ICC), the recent publication of the United Nations database of businesses operating in illegal Israeli settlements, the recently released US Peace Plan as well as the upcoming 43rd regular session of the UN Human Rights Council.
- On 19 February, [Defense for Children International Palestine \(DCIP\)](#) announced that the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child had concluded an initial review of the State of Palestine's child rights record and released its [findings and recommendations](#). DCIP informed that the concluding observations recognized that ongoing Israeli military occupation, illegal settlement expansion, and Israel's closure of the Gaza Strip constituted serious obstacles to the implementation of rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and led to grave violations of children's rights.
- On 18 February, [Gisha – Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement](#) condemned the decision of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), which announced that following rocket fire from the Gaza Strip toward Israel, civilian measures planned for Gaza – expansion of the fishing zone, reinstatement of 500 cancelled trader permits and reinstatement of the entry of cement – were cancelled. Gisha reiterated that “while deliberate or indiscriminate fire towards civilian population centers violates international law [...], Israel's evasion of its responsibility to protect the basic rights of Gaza's residents constitutes illegal and immoral collective punishment.”
- On 17 February, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights \(PCHR\)](#) issued a press release to condemn the Israeli authorities' decision issued on 15 February, to decrease the fishing area off the Gaza Strip shores. PCHR said that these Israeli measures were part of Israel's collective punishment policy against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza strip and a violation of the economic and social rights of Palestinian fishermen.

North America

- On 6 March, [The New Israel Fund, Americans for Peace Now, Foundation for Middle East Peace and J Street](#) will host a panel discussion “The Human Side of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Current Challenges Facing People-to-People Organizations and Reconciliation Work”. The discussion will address why relationship building, in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and a mutual understanding of the “other side” is part of the framework necessary for any sustainable peace agreement.
- On 4 March, [Columbia University Centre for Palestine Studies](#) will host a panel discussion in celebration of Professor Rashid Khalidi’s new book “The Hundred Years’ War on Palestine”.

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 14 February, [The Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territory Occupied since 1967](#), Michael Lynk, applauded the release of a database on business enterprises involved in certain activities relating to Israeli settlements and the West Bank “as an important initial step towards accountability and the end to impunity.” The Special Rapporteur called for the database to become a living tool, with sufficient resources to be updated annually, and urged the Human Rights Council to renew the resolution supporting further work on the database.

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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