

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

## NGO Action News

25 January 2019

### Middle East

- On 24 January, [Al-Haq Center for Applied International Law](#) concluded a three-day training on international humanitarian law and international human rights law for the EU Police and Rule of Law Mission EUPOL COPPS. Among the organizations which contributed and participated in the training were Addameer- the Palestinian Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association and Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights.
- On 23 January, [Al-Haq](#) published a factsheet on “Israel’s Jewish Nation-State Law and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.” The document details how many passages of the Law disregard the rights of indigenous Palestinian citizens of Israel and cements their status as second-class citizens.
- On 17 January, [B’Tselem](#) issued a report on the killing of 290 Palestinians in 2018 by Israeli security forces and condemned the latter as the result of a “reckless open-fire policy”. This policy includes shooting-to-kill incidents defined as “attacks,” giving patently unlawful orders that permit live fire at unarmed demonstrators by the Gaza-Israel fence, and bombarding densely populated areas within Gaza.
- On 15 January, The [Association for Civil Rights in Israel](#) published an update on the “Shrinking Space in Israel” to denounce the “gradual erosion of the various components of democracy,” including civil society organizations, mainly by way of legislation and a “very effective de-legitimization campaign,” including verbal attacks and smear campaigns. The article deals with the infringement of freedom of expression through the enactment of the “Loyalty in Culture” Law, a continuation of the “Nakba Law,” and the “Breaking the Silence Law” – all disqualifying organizations expressing political positions contrary to the political majority.
- On 15 January, [Miftah](#) reported on the completion of a training for human rights defenders network on “Human rights, monitoring and documenting violations and policy dialogue” in the Gaza Strip. The training is part of Miftah’s EU-funded “Youth as Human Rights Defenders” project in the West Bank and Gaza. Participants received intensive training in both branches of international law and in strategies for documenting violations and managing dialogue sessions, particularly for violations of the right to work against fishermen and farmers and the right to health care.

- On 15 January, [Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights](#) published an article on “Suffocating Bethlehem: the new Givat Eitan Colony”, denouncing the recent order of the Israeli High Court of Justice, according to which the so-called “State Land” on the southern outskirts of Bethlehem was allocated to the Ministry of Housing for the purposes of formal planning of the Givat Eitan settlement.

### **North America**

- On 16 January, [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) (JVP) issued a press release to endorse the Women’s March 2019 and to announce its plan to participate to the marches planned in New York and Washington D.C. JVP stated it believed that working with Women’s March as an ally will help combat antisemitism, racism and anti-immigrant sentiments. JVP said it was also concerned at “how – and why – accusations of antisemitism in the Women’s March are being utilised in an attempt to undermine a powerful resistance movement.”

### **United Nations**

- On 22 January, [Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process Nikolay Mladenov](#) delivered a briefing to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. He spoke of demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; the displacement of people and an estimated 13,000 outstanding demolition orders issued in Area C communities. He reiterated the United Nations long-standing position that settlements were illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace.
- On 22 January, UN officials and NGO partners called for a halt to plans to displace Palestine refugees from Sheikh Jarrah, according to a [statement by Humanitarian Coordinator Jamie McGoldrick, UNRWA Director of West Bank operations, OHCHR head in the OPT and Norwegian Refugee Council country director](#). The statement denounced the forced eviction of Palestinians, occurring within the context of Israeli settlement construction and expansion, as illegal under international humanitarian law. It called on the Israeli authorities to immediately halt plans to evict families and cease settlement construction, as well as to abide by their obligations as an occupying power under international law.

*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.*