

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

NGO Action News

27 August 2020

Middle East

- On 26 August, [Al-Haq](#) published the report “House Demolitions and Forced Evictions in Silwan: Israel’s Transfer of Palestinians from Jerusalem”, which examines Israel’s house demolition policy as a tool of forcible transfer of the different types of demolition orders, including incidents of ‘self-demolition’, and forced evictions.
- On 26 August, the [Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network \(PNGO\) and Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council \(PHROC\)](#) issued a statement denouncing the “toxic incitement and defunding campaign” against the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), a long-standing member organization of PNGO. The Palestinian organizations stated that this campaign escalated after the Dutch government had recently announced that it would launch a review into UAWC and suspended its funding, and that the decision itself was preceded and triggered by a coordinated pressure campaign of organizations allegedly affiliated with the Israeli governments,
- On 25 August, [Gisha – Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement](#) issued a press release calling on the Israeli authorities to immediately reverse all punitive measures on the Gaza Strip and allow full access to fuel, food, essential goods and any materials needed for industry and business once the crossings become operational, following the increase of COVID-19 cases among Gaza’s population.
- On 25 August, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights \(PCHR\)](#) issued a press release to warn of Gaza’s health sector collapse and the suspension of health services in the Strip. PCHR denounced the perpetual shortage of essential drugs and medical devices and the insufficient number of specialized health professionals, rendering the system unable to meet the basic medical needs of the territory’s population in normal times, in addition to the shutdown of the Gaza power plant since 18 August, after the Israeli authorities had banned entry of the fuel needed to operate it.
- On 24 August, [Adalah – The Legal Centre for Arab Minority Rights in Israel](#) announced a new series of legal actions to compel the Israeli authorities to protect the health of Palestinian residents in East Jerusalem, after the Jerusalem municipality provided data showing that Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem comprise some 50 per cent of the 4,000 verified new COVID-19 patients in the City. Adalah denounced the lack of COVID-19 test centres for Palestinians living in annexed East Jerusalem but beyond the Separation Wall, the irregular water supply endangering the health of Palestinian Jerusalemites, and the resurgence of

Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes that had been put on hold during the first wave of the pandemic.

- On 23 August, [Physicians for Human Rights Israel \(PHRI\)](#) published the report “Battling COVID-19 in the Occupied Palestinian Territory” highlighting the effect on public health of the ongoing Israeli blockade in Gaza. PHRI lamented that the insufficient amount of equipment needed to treat COVID-19 in the OPT is compounded by poor public health conditions including a water and electricity crisis, rampant poverty and a high population density.
- On 19 August, the [Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling \(WCLAC\)](#) reported on its field visit in the Jordan Valley to collect data on the impact of the annexation plan on Palestinian women. WCLAC aimed to collect testimonies and stories related to the Israeli announcement of annexing the Jordan Valley and its villages earlier in June.

North America

- On 27 August, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace \(FMEP\)](#) is holding the webinar “From Washington to Jerusalem: Evangelicals, Israel/Palestine and American Domestic Politics” with expert Sarah Posner, to explore the relationship between the U.S. Government’s Israel-Palestine policies and evangelical Christians in the country, as well as the implications of this relationship for the upcoming U.S. elections.
- On 20 August, [Americans for Peace Now \(APN\)](#) hosted award-winning Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttab for the webinar “The Palestinians in the Shadow of the Israel-UAE agreement”, in which he discussed the impact of the Israel-UAE agreement on the question of Palestine.

United Nations

- On 27 August, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People \(CEIRPP\)](#) held Part 2 of the International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem on “Annexation in Practice – Palestinian Youth in Jerusalem”. The event, which was livestreamed on UN Web TV and social media channels from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. NY time, featured H.E. Mr. Fadi Hidmi, Minister of Jerusalem Affairs of the State of Palestine, and three experts – Mr. Micha Kurz, former Grassroots Jerusalem and Breaking the Silence; Ms. Reem Natsheh, Women Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling; and Ms. Rochelle Watson, Friends of Sabeel North America – who highlighted the lived reality of young Palestinians, and particularly young women, in East Jerusalem under the Israeli occupation and annexation and to discuss ways to sustain the resilience of the Palestinian Jerusalemites and support their socio-economic efforts, cultural works and political engagement.
- On 25 August, [UNRWA](#) issued a press release calling for unimpeded passage of all vital goods, including fuel for electricity into Gaza. UNRWA stated the closure of the power plant

will have devastating effects on Gaza's vital services, including hospitals, thus putting the lives and health of nearly 2 million people, including 1.4 million registered Palestine refugees, at risk. It added, "We are calling on all concerned parties to maintain a supply of electricity that is sufficient to meet the basic needs of the civilian population" and that "all parties must show utmost restraint and protect the civilian population with full respect for their dignity and human rights" in reference to the closure of the fishing zone and recent escalating tensions and military activities.

- On 25 August, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process](#) Nickolay Mladenov delivered the briefing to the Security Council on the Situation in the Middle East, where he touched on the Israel-UAE deal, which "has the potential to change dynamics across the region" and "creates new opportunities for cooperation at a time when the Middle East and the world face grave dangers from the COVID-19 pandemic and radicalization." He called on the Palestinian leadership to resume accepting its clearance revenues, "now that the imminent threat of annexation has been removed [...]." On the situation in Gaza, he reiterated that indiscriminate launching of rockets and incendiary devices towards civilian populations should cease immediately. He informed that, after hearing the news of the new COVID-19 cases in Gaza, the UN asked Israel to reinstate the delivery of Qatari funded fuel for the Strip in order to help prevent a major health crisis. He also encouraged all parties to work together and explore every opening and opportunity to discuss and debate in order to get out of the cycle of statements and work towards a real solution that is sustainable and in line with relevant UN resolutions.

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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