

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

NGO Action News

28 August 2019

Middle East

- On 26 August, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) received at its head office in Gaza a Swedish delegation including former Secretary-General of the Stockholm-based Olof Palme International Centre Thomas Hammarberg and Secretary-General of the Religious Social Democrats of Sweden Hans Josefsson. The meeting served to discuss the overall human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the collective punishment against Palestinians by the Israeli forces for the past thirteen years with the ongoing closure of the Strip, and the responsibilities of the international community. Participants rejected policies undermining UNRWA, which are an attempt to dismiss the Palestinian people's right of return.
- On 26 August, [Gisha- Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement](#) addressed an urgent letter to Israel's Minister of Defence, Attorney General and the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), calling on them to cancel their decision to reduce the transfer of fuel to Gaza, which would cause "severe and deliberate harm to the Strip's civilian population." Gisha argued that while deliberate or indiscriminate rocket fire from Gaza on civilian population centres was a breach of international law, the imposition of punitive measures against Gazans also constituted a serious violation of international law based on the same principle of protection of civilians.
- On 26 August, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) organized the workshop "Five years after the UN Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM)" in their head office in Gaza with participants from the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, the Palestinian Contractors' Union, NGOs and media. Among the main recommendations of the workshop was to halt the GRM deemed not to take into consideration different stakeholders' interests, while being subjected to Israeli security requirements, and to call upon donors to fulfil their financial obligations towards Gaza and to call upon the international community to exert pressure on Israel to end the blockade on the Strip.
- On 24 August, [Al-Haq](#) submitted a joint urgent appeal, with the International Commission of Jurists based in Geneva, to the UN Special Procedures over the "ongoing smear campaign and incitement to violence" carried out by the Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs on Facebook and other public platforms against Al-Haq and its staff. Al-Haq called on the UN Special Rapporteurs to take immediate and collective action to halt the ongoing online incitement and to intervene directly with Facebook to remove content that violates international human rights law and the site's own standards.

- On 24 August, [Al-Haq](#) called upon the international community to take immediate action to protect Palestinians' freedom of worship and the status quo at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound after Israeli forces had entered the site on 11 August just after the Eid Al-Adha prayer, and other incidents.

Europe

- The [Palestinian Return Centre](#) announced that the Palestine Land Society was hosting in London, on 6 September, the award ceremony of the architectural “Competition for the Reconstruction of the Destroyed Palestinian Villages 1947-1949”.

United Nations

- On 4 September, the [Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) will hold its 396th meeting at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at UN Headquarters in New York. At the meeting, the Committee will adopt its 2019 Annual Report to the General Assembly.
- On 27 August, [Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov](#) delivered a briefing at the Security Council meeting on “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question”. He warned against the lack of a political prospect to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the two-State solution, unilateral moves on the ground, including settlements expansion, and terror attacks. The situation could only be resolved by leadership that was willing and capable of returning to the table for negotiations towards a sustainable and just peace, he underlined. He reiterated the call on Israel to improve the movement and access of goods and people to and from Gaza, and for the status quo of the holy sites to be upheld in line with the Jordanian custodianship.

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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