

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

## NGO Action News

6 October 2022

### Middle East

- On 5 October, [Addameer](#) issued a press release highlighting that the Israeli authorities have systematically utilized for decades administrative detention to indefinitely hold Palestinians without charge or fair trial based on “secret information.” Once the order is issued, the detainee can be held for up to six months with indefinite renewals without ever receiving a charge or trial nor being informed of the evidence against them. These practices infringe on fair trial guarantees and international restrictions for the use of administrative detentions. According to Addameer, as of the end of September 2022, there were around 800 Palestinian administrative detainees in Israeli prisons without charge or trial, including two women, six children, and three Palestinian Legislative Council members.
- On 4 October, [Al-Haq](#) delivered a joint oral intervention with several Palestinian organizations, as part of its engagement with the United Nations Human Rights Council, under the general debate on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance. The joint statement urged the Council and its Member States to demand Israel to repeal its procedure for entry and residence of Foreigners in the West Bank and cease its interference with Palestinian demography and education system. It also urged Israel to uphold the Palestinian people’s rights to self-determination and return and end Israeli impunity.
- On 3 October, [B’Tselem](#) wrote to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, requesting his urgent intervention to stop Israel from its efforts to expel Palestinian communities from their homes and lands in the South Hebron Hills. B’Tselem called upon ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan to initiate a preventive intervention and caution Israel that it is moving forward with a war crime, since forcible transfer of residents in occupied territory is a violation of Article 8(2)(a)(vii) of the Rome Statute. The organization stressed that while this policy has been implemented for decades, current responsibility lies with Israel’s top officials – including the prime minister, the defense minister, the chief of staff, OC Central Command, the head of the Civil Administration, and the High Court justices who sanctioned the policy. B’Tselem will organize an online briefing on [11 October](#) to discuss this intervention, its significance and possible consequences,
- On 1 October, [Adalah](#) published an article marking the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the killing and wounding of Palestinians by Israeli forces during massive protests in Jerusalem and in the West Bank. During these protests, Israeli police officers shot dead 13 young unarmed Palestinian men – 12 citizens of Israel, and one resident of Gaza – and wounded hundreds

more. Adalah added that, over two decades later, Israel still grants sweeping impunity to its police and military forces, as well as to Israeli Jewish civilian vigilantes in cases when Palestinians are killed or wounded.

- On 29 September, [Al-Haq](#) reported having delivered a joint oral intervention, as part of an interactive dialogue with the UN Human Rights Council 51<sup>st</sup> session, on behalf of the six Palestinian civil society organisations declared “terrorist organizations” by Israel. The joint statement highlighted that Israel’s measures against the six organisations is part of a wider attack against the Palestinian people, aimed to deny their rights to self-determination and return and to eliminate them. The organisations urged the Council and its Member States to take concrete measures to ensure that Israel rescinds these arbitrary designations.
- On 29 September, [7amleh](#) issued a statement welcoming Booking.com's decision to warn its customers wishing to stay in properties located in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. 7amleh stated that this is a step in the right direction, as the company has taken a clear position on settlements that violate international law. With this decision, Booking.com enhanced a level of transparency with customers, allowing them to obtain information about violations of international law when visiting the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

### **Europe**

- On 2 October, [Law for Palestine](#), published a weekly review of the legal dynamics of the Palestine question and issues related to international law and Palestine. The report includes an account of the most important publications, activities and conferences, as well as decisions, decrees, and judicial orders related to Palestine at the local, regional, international levels.
- On 2 October, the [Palestinian Return Centre](#) (PRC) expressed deep concern about the continued blockade of Gaza, which hindered Gaza’s development potential for the past 15 years. PRC delivered this statement as part of Item 7 of a General Debate at the UN Human Rights Council, highlighting that the international community has spent an estimated US\$5.7 billion in Gaza in the last 15 years just to keep the population afloat. PRC added that the right to development is an inalienable human right alongside the full realization of the right of peoples to self-determination.
- On 29 September, [Law for Palestine](#) delivered an oral statement during the 51st Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, in partnership with the Human Rights and Democracy Media Center “Shams”. The statement reads that the 1.5 million indigenous Palestinians living in Israel are experiencing an ongoing, unprecedented deterioration of their rights with the Nation-State Bill voted in 2018, enshrining Jewish superiority, racial segregation, and apartheid. Law For Palestine added that discrimination against Arab citizens of Israel takes place across all spheres of public life, including employment, education, housing, litigation, and allocation of government resources.

## North America

- On 7 October, [Friends of Sabeel North America](#) (FOSNA) Iliff School of Theology will organize an event with Dr. Jonathan Kuttab, Executive Director of FOSNA for an in-person roundtable discussion. Dr. Kuttab will discuss topics ranging from nonviolent peacemaking, Palestinian human rights, and a One State solution as the way forward for justice and peace.
- On 6 October, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) will organize the panel discussion “Silencing Palestinian Voices: Symposium on Human Rights”. This event will be moderated by Osamah Khalil, Associate Professor of History at Syracuse University. Panellists will include Sahar Francis, General Director of Addameer, and Fuad Abu Saif, General Director of Agricultural Work Committees.
- On 3 October, [Churches for Middle East Peace](#) (CMEP) organized the webinar “From the President to Congress – the IRS to the State Department”. Panellists Peter Beinart and Nizar Farsakh discussed how American institutions and Government are supporting and sustaining the occupation of Palestinian Territory, and how American citizens can push back. This webinar is part of the series of educational events “American Complicity in the Israeli Occupation” and is organized in collaboration with American Friends of Combatants for Peace.
- On 30 September, [Human Rights Watch](#) (HRW) published an article arguing that the European Union and its member states should condemn Israel’s crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution during the EU-Israel Association Council meeting on 3 October. The last Association Council meeting was held in 2012 and further gatherings were paused after Israeli authorities objected to the EU’s position regarding West Bank settlements. HRW added that the EU and its member states should also press Israeli authorities to end the crackdown on Palestinian civil society. [Association Belgo-Palestinienne](#) and [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) also published articles against the resumption of these EU-Israel meetings. The [EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy](#), Josep Borrell, stated ahead of this meeting that the situation in the Palestinian Territory and the Middle East Peace Process will be discussed with Israeli representatives during the meeting.
- On 29 September, [Americans for Peace Now](#) (APN) published an article recalling that 22 years after the beginning of the Second Intifada, the alarming trend of violence in the West Bank is still taking place. According to this article, this protracted armed conflict caused more than 1,000 Israeli fatalities and more than 2,700 Palestinian fatalities. Thousands more were injured, and hundreds of thousands traumatized. Furthermore, a recent poll showed that Palestinian hope for national independence is at an all-time low, general pessimism is on the rise, as is support for armed struggle against Israel.
- On 29 September, [Americans for Peace Now](#) (APN) published a statement urging the Biden administration to ensure that the Joint US-Israel Strategic High-Level Dialogue on Technology launched on 28 September is not extended to institutions or companies based in

Israeli West Bank Settlements. APN informed that these talks are intended to establish a US-Israel technological partnership on critical and emerging technologies and solutions to global challenges. APN stated that as the West Bank is under Israeli military occupation, it is not a part of sovereign Israel and should not be treated as such, adding that any context that lends legitimacy to Israeli settlements further entrenches the occupation and undermines prospects for peace.

### **United Nations**

- On 4 October, [OCHA](#) published the report “West Bank demolitions and displacement -July-August 2022”. The report highlighted that the Israeli authorities demolished, seized or forced people to demolish 202 Palestinian-owned structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Twenty-nine of these had been provided as donor-funded humanitarian aid. As a result, 216 people, including 105 children, were displaced, and the livelihoods or access to services of over 1,200 others were affected. All but 14 of the structures were targeted for lacking building permits, which are nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain.
- On 30 September, the [UN Human Rights Council](#) held a General Debate on the Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories. The press release on this General Debate informed that the State of Palestine was disappointed at the absence of Israel in the debate. Several Member States and civil society organizations took the floor during the debate. The United Nations, Member States and regional groups were called upon to put pressure on the occupying power to put an end to its aggression, including by implementing articles 146-8 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, allowing the Fact-Finding Mission to exercise its mandate, and allowing the Special Rapporteur and mandate holders to visit Palestine.

*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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