

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

## NGO Action News

13 October 2022

### Middle East

- On 11 October, [al-Haq](#) published an article welcoming the release of the new report by the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) titled “Persecution of Palestinian Civil Society: Epistemic Violence, Silencing, and the Apartheid Framework”. The report examines the threat Palestinian civil society faces following Israel’s use of detention and raids on civil society offices and the designation of six Palestinian civil society organisations. According to Al-Haq, Israel’s use of “terrorist” designations against civil society organisations is part of the systemic violence against Palestinians, in this case being used to delegitimise Palestinian CSOs’ human rights work and frustrate engagement with the international community.
- On 11 October, [Badil](#) submitted a report to update the UN Human Rights Council on the status of Israel’s human rights record. BADIL addressed concerns arising from ongoing Israeli policies and practices covering four categories of violations: the denial of access to natural resources, annexation, land confiscation and denial of use; the segregation, fragmentation and isolation of Palestinian communities; self-determination and denial of reparations – especially return - for Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs); the suppression and silencing of Palestinian rights defenders. [The Palestinian Return Centre](#) in London also submitted a written statement to the Human Rights Council.
- On 10 October, [Addameer](#) published a statement issued by 292 regional and international human rights and civil organizations for the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails. The undersigned organizations informed that among those held without charge 4,650 Palestinian prisoners, about 180 are minors while 780 are administrative detainees, including two female prisoners and four children. The statement further calls on the international community to pressure the Israeli authorities to end the practice of administrative detentions and its use against Palestinians.
- On 6 October, [Al Mezan Center for Human Rights](#) together with ActionAid Palestine published a fact sheet that outlines the impact of Israel’s closure and blockade on Gaza’s healthcare system during the COVID-19 pandemic. The two organizations also released a documentary film titled “Gaza in the face of two viruses: COVID-19 and occupation” addressing the obstacles faced in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in the Gaza Strip and exacerbated by the Israeli blockade.
- The organization [Zochrot](#) reported the launch of the iReturn - Navigate Palestine, Imagine the Future app, which represents an upgraded version of the trilingual iNakba app first

launched in 2014. The app is designed to enhance understanding of the Palestinian Nakba, its landscape and the possibility for redress.

### North America

- On 24 October, the [Columbia University for Palestinian Studies](#) will host a presentation by Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion by legal and policy experts in the field. This event is co-presented by the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University.
- On 19 October, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) will organize the event “Book Reading, Light in Gaza: Writings Born of Fire”. According to the Jerusalem Fund, this book imagines the future of Gaza while reaffirming the critical role of Gaza in Palestinian identity, history, and the struggle for liberation.
- On 11 October, [Human Rights Watch](#) (HRW) published a summary of its submission to the last Universal Period Review (UPR) of Israel. The summary mentions that Israel’s serious human rights abuses, in particular those committed against Palestinians, have worsened since its last Universal Periodic Review in 2018. Recalling that HRW concluded in a report released in 2021 that Israeli authorities are committing the crimes of apartheid and persecution against millions of Palestinians, the organization highlighted that this recent UPR submission covers six clusters of grave human rights abuses carried out by Israeli authorities: illegal settlements and widespread confiscation of land from Palestinians; sweeping movement restrictions against Palestinians; unlawful killings and war crimes without accountability; suspension of basic civil rights for millions of Palestinians and abusive detention practices; forcible displacement and denial of residency rights to Palestinians; and escalating attacks on human rights defenders.
- On 11 October, [Churches for Middle East Peace \(CMEP\)](#) published a statement welcoming the ongoing efforts of the US Administration to restore vital funding for Palestinian humanitarian needs, including the US\$344 million pledged contribution to UNRWA in 2022. CMEP urges Congress to ensure that all the funds requested are fully appropriated. CMEP also expressed alarm at a proposed amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would prevent the United States from providing these funds to UNRWA and at legislation in the US House of Representatives that seeks to undermine UNRWA funding based on allegations about the content of Palestinian school textbooks.
- On 9 October, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast “Threats, Attacks, and Steadfastness in Masafer Yatta”. In this episode, journalist and human rights activist Basel Adraa discussed with FMEP’s Sarah Anne Minkin the increase in threats of expulsion, forced transfer and violence against Palestinians in Masafer Yatta by the Israeli army and settlers.

- On 6 October, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) organized the panel discussion “Silencing Palestinian Voices: Symposium on Human Rights”. This event was moderated by Osamah Khalil, Associate Professor of History at Syracuse University. Panellists included Sahar Francis, General Director of Addameer, and Fuad Abu Saif, General Director of Agricultural Work Committees.

### **Asia and Europe**

- On 19 October, [APAN](#) - Australia Palestine Advocacy Network and the Islamic Council of Victoria will organize the online collaborative event “It's Apartheid! What now...? The fight for justice in Palestine”. Panelists will discuss the current political situation in Palestine, what they consider to be the ongoing apartheid committed against Palestinians, and the next steps to achieve justice.
- On 9 October, [Law for Palestine](#) informed that the organization called for concrete action in pursuit of accountability for Palestinian victims during the International Justice for Palestine webinar organized by the Malaysian Bar Council’s Human Rights Committee. The event started with a recorded keynote speech by Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967. In addition to Hassan Ben Imran, board member at Law for Palestine, the webinar’s panel was attended by Mr. Azril Amin, President of the Centre for Human Rights Research and Advocacy – Malaysia (CENTHRA), and Dr. Tarik Temas, Director of GPM Malaysia-Palestine. The webinar was moderated by Ms. Usha Kulasegaran, co-deputy chairperson of the Malaysian Bar Council’s Human Rights Committee and the Head of its ICC Working Group.

### **United Nations**

- On 8 October, the [United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, issued a statement expressing concerns over the deteriorating security situation, including the rise in armed clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Since the beginning of the year, at least 100 Palestinians have been killed, including children, amid a significant increase in Israeli military operations in the occupied West Bank. During the same period, 16 Israelis have been killed inside Israel in a wave of terrorist attacks by Palestinians and Israeli Arabs. The mounting violence in the occupied West Bank is fueling a climate of fear, hatred and anger. Tor Wennesland added that it was crucial to reduce tensions immediately to open the space for crucial initiatives aimed at establishing a viable political horizon.
- On 7 October, [UNISPAL](#) shared its monthly Bulletin, that offers a collection of actions and documents by the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations relevant to the question of 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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