

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

NGO Action News

20 October 2022

Middle East

- On 18 October, [Al-Haq](#) sent an urgent letter to Third States, in light of the recent escalation in what it considers widespread and systematic attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank. The letter urged States to urgently intervene to de-escalate Israel's violence against Palestinians. Al Haq further stated that Israel had escalated its collective punishment of Palestinians, including by imposing unlawful closures on Palestinian cities, villages, and refugee camps, acts expressly in breach of international humanitarian law. On this issue, [HaMoked](#) wrote to the Israeli High Court of Justice department of the State Attorney's Office to demand that regular travel be restored via Shu'fat checkpoint, located inside the boundaries of the Jerusalem municipality, and 'Anata checkpoint in the West Bank, which were closed on 8 October, affecting 140,000 Palestinians. [Adalah](#) also published an article demanding Israel to lift its blockade of Palestinian residential areas in East Jerusalem.
- On 17 October, [Al-Haq](#) reported that 65 Palestinian, regional and international organizations sent a joint letter to the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, highlighting recent Israeli policies and practices imposed against Palestinians. Specifically, the letter underscored Israel's 15-year-old blockade of the Gaza Strip; Israel's increase in military incursions into Palestinian cities in recent months; and the closure of Shu'fat Refugee Camp and 'Anata as acts of collective punishment; and an aggravation in the use of force by the Israeli Forces. The joint letter called for the human rights situation in Palestine to be put at the top of the High Commissioner's agenda, noting with concern the repeated delays regarding the update of the UN Database on Settlement Business Activities. [Al Mezan](#) published this joint letter as well.
- On 13 October, [Addameer](#) informed that Palestinian prisoners and detainees suspended their 19-day collective hunger strike to protest the Israeli authorities' policy of administrative detention following an agreement with the Israeli authorities to prioritize discussions on administrative detention with the representatives of the Palestinian Prisoners' Movement and the release of sick and elderly administrative detainees, including Palestinian women and child administrative detainees within two months.
- On 13 October, [7amleh](#), in cooperation with a group of local, regional and international civil society organizations, launched the "Meta, Let Palestine Speak" campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to call on Meta (Facebook & Instagram) to end its discriminatory policies and practices on Palestinian content across its platforms. This campaign came as a direct

response to the recently published independent Human Rights Due Diligence Report issued by the global nonprofit - Business for Social Responsibility.

Europe

- On 8 October, the [Palestinian Return Centre](#) (PRC) participated in the annual conference of the organization People Before Profit in Belfast, Northern Ireland. PRC spoke during the Conference's plenary session entitled 'Free Palestine: Taking a Stand Against Apartheid', engaging the audience with the concept of the Palestinian right of return. PRC described the situation of Palestinian refugees living in refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria and within Palestine, and emphasized the urgency of the Palestinian right of return.

North America

- On 24 October, the [Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies](#) will host a presentation by Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories 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 18 October, the [Foundation for the Middle East](#) (FMEP) published the podcast "Unveiling the Chilly Climate – The Suppression of Speech on Palestine in Canada (& Beyond)". FMEP's Lara Friedman spoke to Sheryl Nestel, co-author of a new report published by Canada's Independent Jewish Voices (IJV). Sheryl Nestel discussed why the report was necessary, the research methodology it entailed, the key findings, what the authors and IJV hope the report will achieve, and why this report matters not just for Canada, but for the world.
- On 14 October, [Americans for Peace Now](#) (APN) issued a statement calling on all stakeholders, including the Biden administration, to do their utmost to stop the violence and to prevent further violence and destruction following surging tensions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. APN stated that the current situation is characterized by provocative settler violence, adding that in various hotspots in the West Bank settlers used violence against Palestinians and damaging their property, burning cars and blocking vital transportation routes.

United Nations

- On 20 October, [OHCHR](#) published the first report to the General Assembly of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel. The report addresses the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, its purported de jure and discernible de facto annexation, the human rights implications for Palestinians and the legal consequences of such actions. The 28-page report

focuses on the sustenance and advancement of the settlement enterprise, including statements made by Israeli officials indicating the intent to maintain permanent control over the land in violation of international law. The Commission concludes that by continuing to occupy the territory by force, Israel incurs international responsibilities and remains accountable for violations of the rights of the Palestinians individually and as a people.

- On 18 October, [OCHA](#) published a statement by Lucia Elmi, acting Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, on the alarming increase in violence and movement restrictions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Lucia Elmi stated that 2022 has been the deadliest year since 2006, on a monthly average, for Palestinians residing in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The statement further reads that the United Nations is also concerned about increasing movement restrictions as Israeli forces imposed extensive movement restrictions, limiting access of many Palestinians to health care, education, and livelihoods. Lucia Elmi also highlighted that de-escalation is critical to avoid further loss of life, protect civilians and ensure access to essential humanitarian services.
- On 18 October, the [UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967](#), Francesca Albanese, released a new report where she addressed a number of human rights concerns, in particular regarding the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, in what she considers the context of the settler-colonial aspects of the prolonged Israeli occupation. In addition, on 28 October, the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) and AIDA will organize a discussion with Francesca Albanese during a side event to the UN General Assembly 77th Session. Participants will discuss about recent, and mounting, challenges to humanitarian aid and civic space in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and how to best address the provision of relief and protection of human rights.

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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