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

#### **NGO Action News**

#### **10 November 2022**

#### **Middle East**

- On 7 November, <u>Al Shabaka</u> published the article "Social Media, Self-Expression, and Self-Determination in Gaza". This commentary examines the participation of Gaza's youth in the technological revolution, how this phenomenon has impacted notions of perseverance, social cohesion, and leadership among Palestinians in Gaza. Through an analysis of social media posts on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, as well as interviews with activists and digital media experts, the commentary highlights the different means through which Palestinians in Gaza express their right to self-determination, organize, and restore their political representation.
- On 4 November, <u>Peace Now</u> informed that a critical hearing is expected to take place on 14 November in the Israeli Supreme Court for a precedent-setting case filed by Peace Now and over a dozen Palestinian landowners against the allocation of land for a planned Israeli settlement in the Bethlehem area. Peace Now stated that the plan would seriously jeopardize the prospect of reaching a two-State agreement and would impede the territorial continuum between Bethlehem and the southern West Bank, and, therefore, the viability of a Palestinian state.
- On 3 November, <u>Al-Haq</u> and Forensic Architecture hosted a hybrid press conference to announce the joint submission of forensic evidence on the extrajudicial killing of Shireen Abu Akleh to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The conference was attended by members of the Abu Akleh family, her colleagues, and legal teams seeking to push forward her case for accountability in the Hague.

#### Asia and Europe

- On 9 November, the <u>Irish Center of Human Rights</u> held a seminar entitled "Resetting the Mind: Settler Colonialism, Apartheid, and the Right to Self-determination in Palestine." with the participation of Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967.
- On 7 November, <u>Law for Palestine</u>, in partnership with the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD), organized a webinar titled "UN SR Milestone Report on Palestine: Resuming Rights-Based Discourse on Palestine", as part of the of "Jurists for

Palestine Forum" monthly webinars. The webinar hosted Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, together with four international experts on the question of Palestine, namely Itay Epshtain, Special Advisor at the Norwegian Refugee Council; Hadeel Abu Hussein, Lawyer and Research Fellow at Erasmus University; Wesam Ahmad, Head of Al-Haq Center for Applied IL; and Josh Ruebner, Author and Expert in US-Policy (Palestine-Israel).

- On 6 November, the <u>Palestinian Return Centre</u> hosted a panel discussion in Belfast, Ireland, entitled "105 Years of Balfour: Britain in Palestine & Ireland' to mark 105th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration". The panel discussion was chaired by James McCarthy, journalist and included Farrah Koutteineh, from the Palestinian Return Centre, Pat Torley, Vice Chairman of the Belfast branch of the Communist Party of Ireland, Latifa Abouchakra, a Palestine refugee and Tommy McKearney, a trade unionist, author and activist.
- On 2 November, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) published an article warning that the latest Israel's election results may mean further oppression for Palestinians. The Norwegian Refugee Council's Secretary General Jan Egeland stated that Israel's election results forecast a new government intent to implement permanent rule over Palestinians, adding that Israel, as the occupying Power, has a responsibility for the welfare of Palestinians but instead implements systematic and institutionalized discrimination and oppression of Palestinians. NRC added that the Israeli elections came amid recent waves of violence, informing that 118 Palestinians, including 29 children under the age of 18, have been killed in the West Bank since the Israeli military launched its new operation on 31 March. This number puts the year 2022 on track to be the deadliest on record for Palestinians in the West Bank.

## **North America**

- On 16 November, the <u>Foundation for Middle East Peace</u> (FMEP) will organize the webinar, co-sponsored by several organization partners, titled "Funding Freedom: Philanthropy and the Palestinian Freedom Movement". to launch the publication of its new report. The report, authored by Rebecca Vilkomerson and published by Solidaire Action, looks at the obstacles and opportunities to meet the urgent need to create the conditions for individual donors, foundations, and funding networks to increase ongoing and sustainable giving in support of Palestinians.
- On 11 November, the <u>Jerusalem Fund</u> will organize its Palestine Center Annual Conference titled "75 Years of Partition: Ethnic Cleansing and Dispossession" in Washington, D.C. Several keynote speakers and panelists will participate in the three panels "Ethnic Cleansing", "Human Rights" and "Analysis and Action".
- On 10 November, the <u>Institute for Palestine Studies</u> organized an event via Zoom for the launch of the book "Nakba and Survival: The Story of Palestinians Who Remained in Haifa and the Galilee, 1948-1956", with its author, Adel Manna. This book was published in Arabic in 2016 by the Institute for Palestine Studies and translated in English this year.

- On 7 November, <u>J Street</u> issued a statement expressing concerns over the impact of recent Israeli elections over peace in the region. J Street stated that Israeli political parties likely to form the next governing coalition have a radical anti-Palestinian, anti-diplomacy agenda that openly seeks to destroy any possibility of a mutually negotiated resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The statement further reads that the US government must more forcefully oppose a de facto annexation and insist on the full protection of the human and other fundamental rights of Palestinians living under Israeli military occupation, as required of Israel, as an occupying power under international law. <u>Americans for Peace Now</u> also published an article raising similar concerns.
- On 4 November, <u>Foundation for Middle East Peace</u> published the podcast "Masks Off": Responding to the Israeli Elections". FMEP's Sarah Anne Minkin conducted a series of short interviews with analysts and experts discussing what's new and what's not new in the results of this week's Israeli elections, including consequences on Palestinian populations.

### **United Nations**

- On 29 November, the <u>Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People</u> (CEIRPP), in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, will mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (Solidarity Day) with a Special Meeting. The event will take place in person at the ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ New York, on Tuesday, 29 November from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (EST) and will be livestreamed on <u>UN WebTV</u>. The International Day of Solidarity provides an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the unresolved question of Palestine, and express solidarity with the Palestinian people through messages by Heads of State and Government.
- On 7 November, the <u>UNRWA</u> Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, delivered a Statement to the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee. Mr. Lazzarini highlighted the irreplaceable role of UNRWA, in particular in a current context where poverty of Palestine refugees, combined with the absence of a political process and any hope for a better future is fueling distress, despair and anger. The UNRWA Commissioner-General added that the UNRWA mandate, coming up for renewal, needs to be accompanied by a genuine willingness to provide the necessary predictable resources that will allow Palestine refugees to access a dignified life, stating that the Agency urgently requires a substantial capital injection to lift it out of a chronic budget deficit.
- On 3 and 4 November, the <u>United Nations Department of Global Communications</u> organized in Geneva, Switzerland, the annual United Nations international media seminar on peace in the Middle East. This annual seminar aimed to bring together journalists, media experts, think tanks, diplomats and members of academia from Israel, the State of Palestine, the wider Middle East region, Europe, the United States and other parts of the world, to discuss media related issues and trends connected to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The event also strived to sensitize public opinion to the question of Palestine and promote a peaceful settlement to

the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Melissa Fleming, read out a message from the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, who called for all attacks against journalists to end. The Chair of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, also delivered a statement highlighting that the provision of accurate information about a conflict was a priority and maintaining a culture of professional journalism was crucial.

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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