

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

NGO Action News

1 December 2022

Middle East

- On 29 November, many organizations marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. [Al Mezan](#) issued a press release stating that the occupation of the Palestinian Territory by Israel denies Palestinians their right to self-determination and independence and prevents them from living with dignity and prosperity. Al Mezan further urged States Parties and the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to activate accountability and immediately begin investigating and prosecuting those suspected of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. [Addameer](#), [Adalah](#), [Amnesty International](#), the [Palestinian Return Center](#) and the [Jerusalem Fund](#), among others, also published articles on this topic. On the same day, the [US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#) held the webinar “How to Act in Solidarity with the Palestinian People”.
- On 28 November, [7amleh](#) launched a new research project entitled "Gender Violence in the Palestinian Digital Space", which aims to understand the phenomenon of digital violence against women, and to monitor gender-based violence in the digital space. The research also analyzes the phenomenon of cyber violence in the Palestinian context in terms of causes, impact and repercussions, and puts forward concrete and practical recommendations to combat and limit it. The research highlights the need to ensure a safe, fair and free digital space for all by ensuring the preservation of the digital rights of individuals, which are considered an extension of human rights.
- On 25 November, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) published an article to celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and to mark the first day of the United Nations’ campaign entitled 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which lasts until 10 December. PCHR highlighted that Palestinian women suffer from a serious deterioration in their human rights situation across the Occupied Palestinian Territory due to the ongoing Israeli military escalations on the Gaza Strip. [Al Mezan](#) also published an article on this issue.
- On 23 November, [Al-Haq](#) and 197 Palestinian, regional and international civil society organisations (CSOs) sent open letters to the International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor and the President of Assembly of States Parties (ASP) ahead of the 21st session of the ASP of the ICC. The letter sent to the ICC Prosecutor calls on him to investigate and deter what the organizations consider crimes committed by Israel in Palestine. The two letters also called for support to Palestinian CSOs and asked for a response to Israel’s latest attacks on Palestinian CSOs and to protect human rights defenders. The [Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#) published both letters.

- On 23 November, [B'Tselem](#) informed that Israel demolished a primary school built in the Palestinian community of Khirbet a-Safai al-Foqa in Masafer Yatta, in the part of the South Hebron Hills the Israeli military declared Firing Zone 918. The demolition was greenlighted by the Israeli Supreme Court which cancelled the temporary order that was freezing the demolition, giving the state the go-ahead to expel them. B'Tselem declared that these actions amounted to permitting the state to commit a war crime. The [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) also published an article condemning this demolition.
- On 23 November, [Peace Now](#) informed that the Israeli Supreme Court rejected a petition to block the allocation of a-Nahla (E2) Land to build an Israeli settlement south of Bethlehem. This decision paves the way to doubling the Israeli settlement of Efrat in a way that will seriously harm the chance for future peace based on a two-state solution. If the plan is indeed executed, a buffer will be created between Bethlehem and the south of the West Bank, which will prevent territorial continuity for a future Palestinian state.

Asia and Europe

- On 1 December, as announced by [Law For Palestine](#), the International Institute for Social Studies will hold a panel discussion in The Hague titled “Palestine at the ICC: Justice Delayed is Justice Denied.” Several experts will discuss the Palestine file at the Criminal Court and the crime of apartheid. They will include Raji Sourani, Director of the Palestine Center for Human Rights in Gaza, Issam Younis, Director of the Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Shawan Jabarin, Director of Al-Haq, Katie Gallagher, lawyer at the Center for Constitutional Rights, and Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967.
- On 23 November, [Amnesty International](#) published an article calling for public support for 80 Palestinian families living in Masafer Yatta, in the south of the West Bank, who are at risk of forced displacement. Amnesty International informed that around 1,150 Palestinians, half of whom are children, currently live in nine villages that are slated for complete demolition. Amnesty International stated that Israel’s execution of this large-scale expulsion would amount to forcible transfer, which is a war crime and crime against humanity.

North America

- On 9 December, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) will organise a symposium on “International Protection for the Palestinian People”, as part of the events around the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The speakers will be Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, and Elizabeth G. Ferris, Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration.
- On 7 December, the [Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies](#) will organize the discussion “Nakba and Survival: Adel Manna in Conversation with Rashid Khalidi” to

discuss Adel Manna's book "Nakba and Survival". In this book the author tells the stories of Palestinians in Haifa and the Galilee during the Nakba and in the decade after.

- On 1 December, the [People's Forum](#) will organize the screening of the 1975 film "Kafr Kassem" on the massacre of 47 Palestinian villagers by Israeli troops in 1956. The film reconstructs the events leading up to the massacre by recreating a day in the life of the residents of the Palestinian village, following their relations, emotions, and attempts to build a normal life.
- On 22 November, [Human Rights Watch](#) (HRW) published its briefing note for the Twenty-First Session of the ICC Assembly of States Parties. This briefing note recalled that the government of Israel designated six prominent Palestinian civil society organizations as "terrorist organizations" under Israeli law and as "unlawful associations" under military law, which is applicable in the occupied West Bank. HRW added that these groups continue to face intimidation, most recently when Israeli authorities raided their offices and issued closure orders against them in a bid to shut down their human rights work. Several of those organizations have been submitting information to the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC about alleged crimes committed by Israeli forces and have campaigned for an ICC investigation in Palestine.

United Nations

- On 30 November, the [General Assembly](#) held a Plenary meeting to discuss issues related to the Question of Palestine, including the Report of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People ([A/77/35](#)); a Note by the Secretary-General ([A/77/295](#)) and adopted four Draft resolution ([A/77/L.23](#), [A/77/L.24](#), [A/77/L.25](#), [A/77/L.26](#)).
- On 29 November, the [Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) (CEIRPP), marked the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (Solidarity Day) with a Special Meeting. The event took place in person at the ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ - New York, and was livestreamed on [UN WebTV](#). The Special Meeting was presided by the Chair of the Committee, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, who delivered the opening statement, followed by remarks by the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council, and by the Secretary-General, delivered by his Chef de Cabinet. The Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine delivered a statement on behalf of Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine. Shawan Jabarin, General Director of Al-Haq, also delivered his remarks. During the event, a virtual exhibit titled "[Portraits of Palestinians](#)," depicting individual Palestinians' stories of resilience was launched online. The Chair of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, as well as representatives of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Non-Aligned Movement delivered statements as well.
- On 28 November, Tor Wennesland, [Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), briefed the Security Council during a meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including

the Palestinian question. Tor Wennesland highlighted that after decades of persistent violence, illegal settlement expansion, dormant negotiations and deepening occupation, the conflict is again reaching a boiling point. This surge in violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is taking place in the context of a stalled peace process and entrenched occupation, and amidst mounting economic and institutional challenges faced by the Palestinian Authority. Failing to address the underlying causes of conflict, as well as the negative trends, and without demonstrating a clear political path forward, the conflict will only escalate, as the current trends bring neither stability nor security for anyone.

- On 25 November, [UNRWA](#) issued a press release informing that the Agency is joining the the UN Secretary-General's 2022 UNiTE campaign: UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women and Girls. To mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) against Women and Girls, the Agency will hold events across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan to highlight its commitment to end violence against women and girls. These events respond to the different forms of violence experienced by women and girls and seek to mobilize civil society to become activists.

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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