

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

NGO Action News

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Middle East

- On 5 December, the [Cairo Institute for Human Rights](#) informed that a new report from “Don’t Buy into Occupation” (DBIO) – a coalition of 24 European and Palestinian organisations in seven European countries – reveals, for the second year in a row, that hundreds of European financial institutions are heavily invested in companies shoring up illegal Israeli residential, agricultural and industrial settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. “These companies play a critical role in the functioning, sustainability and expansion of illegal settlements. By lending to or investing in these companies, financial institutions are linking themselves to activities that violate international law,” said Willem Staes, DBIO coordinator.
- On 3 December 2022, which marked the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) published an article stressing that the ongoing Israeli occupation and the closure on the Gaza Strip for 16 years have negatively affected the conditions of the persons with disabilities and their families who have suffered from acute shortage of rehabilitation and social care. Persons with disabilities in Palestine still have difficulties accessing the basic services recognized by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and guaranteed by the Palestinian Disability law No 4 for the year 1999, they suffer from diminished quality of diagnostic, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative healthcare services while the Palestinian Persons with Disabilities Law, which was issued 21 years ago, has not yet entered into effect. According to the data released by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, there are 93,000 persons with disabilities in Palestine, i.e., 2.1% of the total population: 48% in the West Bank and 52% in Gaza Strip.
- On 3 December [Addameer](#) published an article saying that the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) welcomed the vote in favour of the [draft resolution](#) by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) calling for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the situation in Palestine. The resolution, titled “Israeli Practices and Settlement Activities Affecting the Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories”, calls for the ICJ to rule on the legal consequences arising from Israel’s the ongoing prolonged occupation of the Palestinian territory.
- On 3 December Israeli human rights group [B’Tselem](#) wrote to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, requesting his urgent intervention to stop Israel’s efforts to expel 1,000 or so Palestinians from their homes and lands in the South Hebron

Hills (in the southern West Bank). B'Tselem attached to the letter an addendum detailing dozens of incidents in the area since June 2022 and stressed that Israel is also working to cut these small communities off from their surroundings, with the military placing roadblocks, confiscating cars, and hindering activists, journalists, and diplomats from accessing the area. 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.

- On 1 December 2022, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR), [Al-Mezan](#) Center for Human Rights, and [Al-Haq](#) held an event in the Hague entitled “Palestine at the ICC: Justice delayed is Justice Denied” highlighting their concern at the lack of progress in the investigation being conducted by the International Criminal Court’s (ICC) Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) into the situation in the State of Palestine and OTP’s silence concerning the repeated and escalating violations and crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people. Raji Sourani, Director of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, said during the event that since the investigation was opened in March 2021, no practical steps have been taken by ICC Prosecutor and expressed his concern regarding the low budget allocated for the investigation compared with other country situations. Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, said that the inaction of the ICC not only undermines the effectiveness of international law but also tarnishes its image. Speakers also included Issam Younis, Director of Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights.
- On 12 December 2022 at 11am ET/6pm Palestine time, [Al Shabaka](#) will organize an online event titled “Defending Palestine Solidarity Activism in Europe”. According to Al Shabaka, the governments of France, Spain, and Germany have ramped up efforts to suppress Palestine solidarity activism. Palestinians and their supporters in these countries are facing more legal measures to criminalize their rights to boycott and critique Israel than ever before. Host Nadim Bawalsa, Al-Shabaka’s Commissioning Editor, in conversation with Abir Koptiy, member of Al-Shabaka’s policy network and a journalist and writer based in Berlin and Nadia Silhi Chahin, a PhD candidate at Edinburgh Law School, will cover these issues and more.

Asia and Europe

- On 5 December the [Palestinian Return Centre](#) (PRC) in London held its inaugural panel discussion as part of ‘Return Week III’ entitled “74 Years of Israel’s Denial of UN Resolution 194”. Chairman Nader Ihmoud, a journalist and founder and Editor-in-Chief of Palestine in America-- a quarterly print and digital magazine, said Return Week was initially created to commemorate the anniversary of the passing of UN Resolution 194 (III). With more than 26 speakers of researchers, thinkers and activists supporting the Palestinian rights from the UK, Europe, the United States, South Africa and Palestine, this year’s version of the Return Week sends a message to the entire world that the Palestinians will never ever forfeit their inalienable rights, particularly their right to return to their motherland and establish an

independent Palestinian State on the 1967 borders. Until this dream comes true, the longest and most legitimate struggle in the world shall not come to an end.

North America

- On 7 December, the [Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies](#) organized 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.

United Nations

- On 2 December, [UNRWA](#) issued a press release informing that the Federal Council approved Switzerland's continued support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). UNRWA will receive CHF 20 million annually for the years 2023 and 2024. With these funds, Switzerland is reaffirming its commitment to human development, humanitarian action and regional stability.

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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