

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

## NGO Action News

22 December 2022

### Middle East

- On 21 December the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) issued a Special Issue of Jerusalem Quarterly (Winter 2022) titled “Jerusalem's Interrupted Futures”. As JQ guest editor, Falestin Naïli focused on the condition of Palestinians in Jerusalem and elsewhere: a theme of lost opportunities and unrealized plans, in the context of the turbulent history of Jerusalem in the twentieth century.
- On 21 December [Amnesty International](#) published a statement by AI Deputy Director for the Middle East and North Africa. on Israel’s unlawful deportation of French-Palestinian human rights defender Salah Hammouri as a war crime, made possible by a network of laws and policies designed to maintain apartheid over Palestinians. Israeli authorities deported Salah Hammouri, a lawyer and field researcher who works for Addameer, a legal aid and prisoners’ rights NGO, to France on 18 December following nine months in administrative detention without charge or trial. “The deportation of Salah Hammouri demonstrates the Israeli authorities’ utter disdain for international law and illustrates the discriminatory laws and policies which form the heart of the apartheid system”. A statement on Salah Hammouri’s deportation was also issued by [Association France Palestine Solidarite’](#) , by the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) and by [Addameer](#)
- On 20 December the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) issued a statement on the death of Naser Abu Hmeid (50), a Palestinian detainee in the Israeli prisons since 2002, after battling lung cancer for more than a year. Abu Hmeid’s health condition got worse due to the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) systematic medical negligence policy against the sick prisoners. PCHR calls for a prompt and impartial investigation into Abu Hmeid’s death circumstances and is alarmingly concerned that the Israeli occupation authorities procrastinated providing him the immediate and proper medical treatment A similar statement was issued by [Al Mezan Center for Human Rights](#). and by [Addameer](#).
- On 15 December the [Center for Information and Documentation Israel](#) (CIDI), a lobby organisation in the Netherlands, has withdrawn its false allegations against [Al-Haq](#), after the latter had legally summoned CIDI to remove three defamatory articles from its website and to publish a rectification.
- On 13 December [Gisha](#) issued a report on Israel’s “Procedure for issuing permits for Judea and Samaria residents in the Gaza Strip”. The procure stipulates that Palestinians registered

as West Bank residents in the Palestinian population registry who reside in the Gaza Strip must sign a document stating that they have “settled” in Gaza permanently in order to apply for an Israeli permit to exit Gaza for any reason. In signing the document, Israeli authorities assert, these individuals “agree” to waive their right to move back to the West Bank in the future. Through this procedure Israeli authorities are *de facto* committing forcible transfer of protected persons in the occupied Palestinian territory, and the most affected are women. Since women are most often those who move to live near their spouses’ families after marriage, women are disproportionately impacted by the procedure, and also by the Israeli permit regime, which prevents family visits to the West Bank other than in rare cases.

- On 12 December, [Al-Haq](#) released its report: “Corporate Liability: The Right to Water and the War Crime of Pillage”. The report exposes the ‘water apartheid’ that Israel imposes upon Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and the corporations that maintain it. This water-apartheid constitutes a systematic attack on the Palestinian people’s right to water and sanitation, that actively endangers the health of Palestinians and holds the Palestinian economy captive to corporations who exploit this market for commercial profit. In addition to the report, Al-Haq launched a short film [that illustrates water apartheid and corporate complicity](#). The report details how, through the curtailment and policing of water access, the destruction of Palestinian water infrastructure, and the pillaging of Palestinian water sources, Israel uses businesses, some of which are named in the report, to appropriate Palestinian water sources and sell this pillaged water back to Palestinians at ever increasing prices, as a captive market.

### **Asia and Europe**

- On 19 December the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine](#) issued a brochure titled “Israeli spyware: how to stop a product that threatens our rights”. Spyware is a new technology of espionage. By exploiting design flaws in phones and in computers (known as “zero-day loopholes” – security flaws unknown to developers), private companies have adapted military intelligence technology to spy on civilians. They are selling this technology to governments, police forces, intelligence units and possibly to non-government organizations such as corporations. This spyware technology was designed and tested as part of the Israeli occupation and apartheid regime in Palestine. It has been used to sabotage the work of Palestinian civil society organizations who protect Palestinian human rights, and to silence attempts to hold Israeli security forces accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed against Palestinians.

### **North America**

- On 22 December [Americans for Peace Now](#) organized a Webinar on “Israel's Incoming Government and Civil Society”. Three leaders of progressive civil society organizations discussed the challenges they expect to contend with as Benjamin Netanyahu prepares to swear in his new government. The three -- Shaqued Morag of Peace Now, Avner Gvaryahu

of Breaking the Silence, and Jessica Montell of Hamoked -- reviewed ways in which they and their allies are preparing to confront the expected onslaught from Netanyahu and his coalition partners.

### **United Nations**

- On 19 December, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace process Tor Wennesland delivered a [briefing to the Security Council](#) on the situation in the Middle East, reporting on UN Security Council resolution 2334 (2016). The Special Coordinator reiterated his deep concern over the high levels of violence in Israel and the occupied West Bank over the past several months. Clashes, protests attacks, Israeli security operations, including in Area A, and settler-related violence have continued. Since the beginning of 2022, over 150 Palestinians and more than 20 Israelis have been killed, the highest numbers of fatalities in years. Violence has continued throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, he added, pointing out that, since 8 December, six Palestinians — including two children — have been killed by Israeli security forces. On the sharp increase in violence against civilians on both sides, he said he was particularly appalled that children continue to be victims of violence. This year has tragically witnessed the killing of 44 Palestinian children and one Israeli child. The deepening occupation, increase in violence and absence of a political horizon have empowered extremists and are eroding hope among Palestinians and Israelis that a resolution to the conflict is achievable, he stated.

*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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