

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

NGO Action News

5 January 2023

Middle East

- Several organizations including [al Mezan](#) and the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) welcomed the UN General Assembly vote on 30 December 2022 in favour of requesting the International Court of Justice to provide an advisory opinion on the legal nature of Israel's prolonged military occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and the responsibilities of third party-States. PCHR added that this vote is a step in the right direction towards holding Israel accountable for its ongoing oppression and suppression of the Palestinian people. [Al Haq](#) published an article which stated that the advisory opinion offers a critically important opportunity for the Court to examine the legality of the occupation regime, which if found in breach of international law, may impose important legal obligations on Third States and the international community, to bring the occupation to an end.
- On 10 January, the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) will organize an event online and in Ramallah for the launch of the book "Camera Palaestina: Photography and Displaced Histories of Palestine", in partnership with the Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center. The authors of this new book explored the major historical events and the development of an urban bourgeois lifestyle as well as a social field of vision of Palestinian life as exemplified in the Jerusalem community.
- On 4 January, [Yesh Din](#) published the report "Summary of the 2022 harvest season". Yesh Din recalled that the olive harvest is a cultural, social and above all economic event that is a significant source of livelihood for many of the Palestinians in the West Bank. The report highlighted that 38 separate incidents of settler violence against Palestinian farmers were reported to Yesh Din's field researchers during the 2022 harvest season, between 7 October and 30 November 2022.
- On 2 January, [B'Tselem](#) informed that the Israeli District Coordination and Liaison Office (DCO) notified the Palestinian DCO that in the coming days, about 1,000 Palestinians from Masafer Yatta, in the South Hebron Hills, whose land was designated "Firing Zone 918" will receive notices to vacate their homes. According to B'Tselem, the Israeli DCO added that the State plans to offer the residents an alternative location, to which they will be expelled. B'Tselem stated that forcible transfer of protected persons in occupied territory is a war crime, therefore, the Israeli offer of an alternative is meaningless and a violent threat that leaves the residents with no choice. [ACRI](#) added that should the transfer indeed be carried out, a humanitarian disaster awaits: the historic villages will be demolished, and over 1,000 men, women, and children of Masafer Yatta will be left without shelter, a source of income, or personal property, cutting them off from their primary source of livelihood.

- On 1 January, [Addameer](#) published the report “2022 in review”, informing that Israeli forces arrested a total of around 7,000 Palestinians in 2022, with April recording the highest number of arrests reaching 1,228 cases, followed by May and October, with 690 cases. The number of Palestinians arrested from East Jerusalem remained the highest among other Palestinian cities, with more than 3,000 cases of arrests, including 600 cases of house arrests. Notably, around 106 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip were arrested, including 64 Gazan fishermen.
- On 28 December, [B’Tselem](#) informed that ten human rights groups that operate in Israel sent a joint letter to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, a first of its kind, voicing support for his intention to visit Palestine and for advancing the Court’s ongoing investigation, following upon his 5 December speech before the Assembly of State Parties. Signatories include Adalah, B’Tselem, Combatants for Peace, [HaMoked](#), Human Rights Defenders Fund, Parents against Child Detention, Physicians for Human Rights Israel, The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, Torat Tzedek, and Yesh Din.
- On 27 December, [Peace Now](#) and Haaretz Daily organized a conference titled “When the Occupation Occupies Israel: How the new right-wing government will impact the two sides of the Green Line?” The event held in Tel Aviv attracted a diverse audience of concerned citizens, policymakers, and journalists. The conference was moderated by Noa Landau, the Deputy Editor of Haaretz, and featured a panel of speakers including Shaqed Morag, the Executive Director of Peace Now; Michael Sfar, an expert in international humanitarian law and the legal counsel for Peace Now; Esawi Frej, former Minister of Regional Cooperation; Hagar Shezaf, the West Bank Correspondent for Haaretz; and Rabbi Gilad Kariv, a member of the Israeli parliament.
- On 24 December, [Al Haq](#) published a joint statement from 86 human rights and civil society organisations, and academic institutions condemning what they consider Israel’s targeted smear campaign against the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, Francesca Albanese. The signatory organizations consider that the statement issued on 14 December by Israel’s Mission to the United Nations in Geneva represents the latest manifestation in a pattern of Israeli attacks aimed at silencing any legitimate criticism of the inhuman manner in which it treats Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). [Al Mezan](#) published this statement as well.

Asia and Europe

- On 21 December, [Law For Palestine](#) published an article titled “An International Paradigm Shift Recognising the Root Causes of Palestine’s Struggle? Reflection on the UN SR’s Report and Recent Developments in the Discourse on Palestine/Israel”. According to the article’s authors, recent UN and NGO reports supporting Palestinian rights are a clear indication that the international legal discussion is moving on from the status quo-based discourse, that has been dominant since the Oslo Accords, towards dealing with the root causes of the struggle; just as was the case before the beginning of the peace process: a discourse of self-determination, anti-racism and anti-colonialism.

North America

- On 12 January, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) will organise the event “Poetry Reading and Discussion with Mosab Abu Toha” in Washington DC. The event will be moderated by Said Arikat, Washington bureau chief for the Palestinian newspaper al-Quds, with the participation of Mosab Abu Toha, a Palestinian poet, short story writer, and essayist from Gaza.
- On 3 January, [J Street](#) issued a statement expressing alarm over Israel’s new National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir provocative visit to the Temple Mount/Al-Aqsa compound, amidst his broader effort to tamper with the religious status quo at the highly sensitive holy site.
- On 29 December, [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast “Explained: What Israel’s New Government Means for Settlements, Outposts, & Area C”. In this episode of “Occupied Thoughts,” FMEP Non-resident Fellow Peter Beinart was joined by Ziv Stahl (Yesh Din) to discuss what the new Israeli government has said – and in some cases already started to implement – with regard to what its policy on settlements, outposts, and Palestinian life in Area C will be. In addition, participants discussed the deepening challenges facing human rights organizations and their employees.

United Nations

- On 31 December, the [UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry](#) on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, issued a statement welcoming General Assembly resolution 77/400 deciding to request an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) relating to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. The resolution asks the ICJ to render its opinion on the legal consequences arising from Israel’s ongoing violation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, its prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and from its adoption of discriminatory legislation and measures. The resolution further asks the Court how Israel’s policies and practices referenced affect the legal status of the occupation and what are the legal consequences that arise for all States and the UN.
- On 30 December, [OCHA](#) published the report “The humanitarian impact of 20 years of the Barrier”. OCHA informed that the Barrier is one element of a range of restrictions that Israel has imposed on Palestinians since 1967, which include physical obstacles, bureaucratic constraints such as permit requirements and the designation of areas as restricted or closed. The Barrier consists of concrete walls, fences, ditches, razor wire, sand paths, an electronic monitoring system, patrol roads, a buffer zone and several military checkpoints. Its total length, constructed and projected, is 713 km, more than twice the length of the Green Line. OCHA highlighted that the Barrier has transformed the geography, economy and social life of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, as well as the lives of those residing in the wider metropolitan area.

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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