

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

NGO Action News

12 January 2023

Middle East

- Several organizations, including the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) and [al Mezan](#), condemned the new steps taken by the Israeli government against the Palestinian Authority (PA) in response to the recent request to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to give an advisory opinion on the legal nature of Israel's prolonged military occupation of the OPT and the responsibilities of the third-party states. Al Mezan informed that the Israeli cabinet approved on 5 January a series of sanctions against the PA, including withholding approximately \$40 million of tax revenue that Israel collects on behalf of the PA and deducting from the revenues payments made by the PA to Palestinian prisoners under Israeli custody and their families. The sanctions also included a moratorium on Palestinian construction in most parts of Area C and a revocation of travel permits for Palestinian officials.
- On 10 January, [Adalah](#) published a position paper on the legal implications of the guiding principles and coalition agreements of the new Israeli government. The policy and ideological commitments made by the new government, according to Adalah, deepen and expand the regime of systematic discrimination, segregation, and repression against Palestinians in all areas under Israeli control. Adalah stressed the urgency of interventions by international bodies, including by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the reconstitution of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid.
- On 8 January, [B'Tselem](#) published an article informing that Israeli forces killed 146 Palestinians in 2022, the largest number since 2004, in the West Bank including East Jerusalem. Among the persons killed were five women and 34 minors. B'Tselem stated that these figures illustrate Israel's open-fire policy in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which grew deadlier over the last year, adding that every Palestinian is considered a suspect, and any risk posed to Israeli forces – real or imagined – is met with lethal gunfire. B'Tselem further stated that these cases are not exceptions, but an integral policy of the Israeli regime.
- On 5 January, [Peace Now](#) published its new “Settlements Map 2023”. This map provides detailed information about the location and size of the settlements and illegal outposts, allowing for a portrayal of the current state of settlement expansion.
- On 4 January, the [Hebron Rehabilitation Committee](#) (HRC) issued a statement informing that the organization submitted a letter to UNESCO in which the HRC illustrated the serious

violations committed by Israeli authorities against the cultural heritage of the Old City of Hebron. HRC demanded the deployment of a fact-finding mission from UNESCO to protect the archaeological remains in the area, especially the Ibrahimi Mosque registered on the World Heritage List.

Asia and Europe

- On 27, 28 and 29 January, a [Palestine Solidarity Conference](#) will be held in Melbourne, Australia, to bring together a diverse range of people interested in campaigning, organising, and advocating for Palestine. The Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) informed that participants will engage over three days in workshops and plenaries, and explore avenues to work together to achieve a bigger and more sustainable impact.
- On 11 January, [Amnesty International](#) published an article highlighting that Palestinian flag restrictions imposed by Israeli authorities are the latest attempt to silence Palestinians and reduce their visibility. Amnesty International explained that an Israeli government directive issued on 7 January placed additional restrictions on the display of Palestinian flags in public spaces in Israel, representing an attack on the rights to nationality, freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly. The directive describes the Palestinian flag as a symbol of “terrorism” and instructs Israeli police to remove it from public places.

North America

- On 18 January, [Americans for Peace Now](#) (APN) will organize the webinar “The Price of Criticizing Israel's Human Rights Record” with Kenneth Roth. Panelists will discuss the reasons why Roth was denied a previously arranged year-long fellowship at Harvard’s Kennedy School because of his and Human Rights Watch’s criticism of Israel’s violations of human rights.
- 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 6 January, [J Street](#) issued a press release raising concerns over the Israeli government’s imposition of harshly punitive sanctions against Palestinians and their leadership, in response to the Palestinian Authority’s formal request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Israel’s occupation. J street added that the Israeli government has responded to an act of nonviolent opposition to occupation with an illegitimate crackdown on dissent. On a related topic, on 4 January, [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) (JVP) issued a statement condemning the Israeli government’s escalation of its attacks on Palestinians and its grave violations of human rights and international law. JVP further raised concerns that the new governing coalition will aggressively oppress Palestinians, suppress all dissent, and foment violence.

United Nations

- On 5 January, Khaled Khiari, UN [Assistant Secretary-General](#) (ASG) for Middle East, Asia and the Pacific in the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, addressed the Security Council in the aftermath of Israel's new Minister of National Security Itamar Ben Gvir's 3 January visit to the holy sites in Jerusalem, along with a heavy security detail. The visit is seen as particularly inflammatory given the Minister's past advocacy for changes to the status quo. Also noting that this was the first visit to the site by an Israeli minister since 2017, Khaled Khiari added that the visit was sharply condemned by the Palestinian Authority and others as a provocation while Israel's Prime Minister as well as senior Government officials emphasized commitment to upholding the status quo. Warning that any incident or tension at the holy sites can spill over and cause violence throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in Israel, and elsewhere in the region, the ASG reiterated the Secretary-General's call for all parties to refrain from escalations and uphold the status quo, in line with the special role of Jordan.
- On 5 January, Ambassador Cheikh Niang, [Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) urged respect of the status quo at the Holy Sites in Jerusalem and called on Israel, the Occupying Power, to refrain from provocations.

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.



<http://www.facebook.com/UN.palestinianrights>



<http://www.twitter.com/UNISPAL>