

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

NGO Action News

19 January 2023

Middle East

- On 15 January, [Al Mezan](#) issued a statement denouncing Israel for preventing essential medical devices from entering Gaza for over one year. Al Mezan stated that Israeli authorities continued to severely restrict the entry of goods and humanitarian supplies into the Gaza Strip under the government's comprehensive closure policy, despite the visible deterioration of Gaza's health determinants. Alarming, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, since the beginning of 2022, Israel has been preventing CT scans, digital X-ray machines, mobile C-arm X-ray devices and interventional X-ray devices, as well as spare parts needed to repair outdated or damaged medical devices from entering Gaza. Al Mezan also called for the free, unhindered movement of medical equipment and consignments into the Gaza Strip, while fostering support for its healthcare sector.
- On 15 January, [ACRI](#), together with Yesh Din, Breaking the Silence, and Ofek, have compiled a policy paper that analyzes the implications of the coalition agreements signed to form Israel's 37th government regarding the Occupied Territories. The four organizations view these agreements as a declaration of intent to apply far-reaching changes to the structure of the regime in Israel and the nature of control over the West Bank. Whether these agreements are applied in full or not, they provide a clear picture of the government's intentions, goals, and priorities. Therefore, ACRI and its partners stressed the importance of providing an analysis regarding the anticipated consequences on the lives, rights, and futures of millions of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.
- On 12 January, [B'Tselem](#) published an article informing that throughout November 2022, Israeli forces killed 19 Palestinians in the West Bank. Five of them were minors. B'Tselem stressed that its investigations have found that soldiers and police routinely shoot and kill Palestinians even when they pose no danger, further adding that Israel uses violence against Palestinians to cement Jewish supremacy in the area under its control.
- On 12 January, the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) (IPS) announced the release of the latest issue of the Journal of Palestine Studies focusing on infrastructure, environment, and health in Palestine. IPS informed that the contributors in this special issue drew on original archival, spatial, and ethnographic research to parse the realities, experiences, and lessons that Palestine offers beyond its status as a site of settler-colonial deprivation and toxicity. It also sheds new light on the conditions and possibilities of politics.

Asia and Europe

- On 27, 28 and 29 January, the [Palestine Solidarity Conference](#) will be held in Melbourne, Australia, to bring together a diverse range of people interested in campaigning, organizing, and advocating for Palestine. Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN) informed that participants will engage over three days in workshops and plenaries and explore avenues in which the movement can work together to achieve a bigger and more sustainable impact.
- On 17 January, the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine](#) (ECCP) informed that a group of European Parliamentarians from 10 European Union countries (from national parliaments and the European Parliament) have written to the European Union's High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borell to addresses the Prime Minister Netanyahu's annexationist policies. The letter reads that these policy decisions, de facto or de jure, are designed to advance the separate, discriminatory and unequal system in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and expel Palestinians from their land. The letter also mentioned that those policy announcements entrench and expand annexation and that they must be challenged by all those in Europe who uphold the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and strive for consistency in the application of international law.

North America

- On 17 January, [Americans for Peace Now](#) published the article "The Neglected Dimension of Israeli Democracy", highlighting how the West Bank occupation has eroded away the Israeli democracy for decades. According to this article, the Palestinian issue threatens Israel's democracy in a number of different ways. While the internal threat against the judicial branch of government is currently the topic of petitions and mass demonstrations, the threat posed by the Palestinian issue is almost as imminent, far more complex, equally dangerous, and dangerously neglected. The article further warned of signs of a new, third Intifada.
- On 16 January, [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast "A War Crime in the Making: the UN's Francesca Albanese on Ethnic Cleansing in the South Hebron Hills". In this episode, FMEP's Lara Friedman spoke to Francesca Albanese — international legal expert and the UN's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 — on ongoing and escalating actions by Israel to forcibly eject more than 1,200 Palestinians from their homes in the West Bank region of Masafer Yatta, located in the South Hebron Hills.
- On 12 January, [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) (JVP) issued a statement condemning Israeli Forces for killing five Palestinians and arresting dozens, including children, during the two previous days. JVP added that Israeli forces invaded multiple cities and villages across the occupied West Bank, killing five Palestinians and arresting dozens, including children. JVP further stated that this violence by the Israeli military is part of Operation Breaking the Wave, a military campaign which, although only recently acknowledged by the Israeli government, has brutalized Palestinians for the past nine months.

- On 12 January, [J Street](#) issued an action memo calling on the Biden Administration to urgently press the Israeli government against carrying out a mass eviction of Palestinian communities in the Masafer Yatta area of the occupied West Bank. The memo urged the Biden administration to not only reiterate US opposition to the Israeli government's plan, but also make clear that proceeding with the mass eviction would have specific consequences, including the recognition that the use of US-origin military equipment in connection with the eviction would merit an investigation into whether such use constituted a violation of US arms export control law.

United Nations

- On 18 January, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, briefed the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. Tor Wennesland stated that a dangerous cycle of violence persists on the ground, amidst increased political tension and a stalled peace process. He reiterated the United Nations commitment to supporting Israelis and Palestinians to achieve a sustainable peace and urged all sides to reduce tensions and take concrete steps towards establishing a political horizon. Tor Wennesland further stated that perpetrators of all acts of violence must be held accountable and swiftly brought to justice. Security forces must exercise maximum restraint and use lethal force only when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life. In addition, the Special Coordinator stated that courageous political leadership is urgently required to generate the momentum necessary to transform the current dynamic. During the Open Debate, the Chair of the [Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#), Ambassador Cheikh Niang, expressed the Committee deep concern and dismay at the recent provocations at the Holy Sites in Jerusalem and stressed the importance of peaceful religious coexistence and called on Israel, the Occupying Power, to refrain from provocations that escalate the conflict and to respect international law. Ambassador Niang also rejected actions by Israel against the Palestinian people, leadership and civil society in retaliation for the GA vote requesting the ICJ advisory opinion and called for the immediate reversal of these actions.
- On 16 January, [OCHA](#) published the update "Protection of Civilians Report" covering the period 20 December 2022 – 9 January 2023. OCHA informed that 5 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces in the reporting period, and 394 Palestinian including at least 40 children, were injured by Israeli forces across the West Bank. Israeli settlers injured twenty Palestinians, including five children, and seven women in eight incidents, and people known or believed to be Israeli settlers caused damage to Palestinian property in another 24 instances. In addition, the Israeli authorities demolished, confiscated, or forced people to demolish 66 structures in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank, including eleven homes, citing the lack of Israeli-issued building permits.

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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