

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

## NGO Action News

2 February 2023

### Middle East

- On 31 January, [B'Tselem](#) published an article on the 2022 olive harvest in the West Bank, which took place from September to November. The organisation documented 48 incidents of settler violence against Palestinians and their property during this period, sometimes with soldiers participating. In 13 incidents, settlers attacked harvesters with stones, clubs, iron pipes and pepper spray, injuring 11. B'Tselem further stated that military-backed settler violence is not unique to the olive harvest season, but a permanent reality for Palestinians in the West Bank, and one of the methods the Israeli State uses to gain control of more land.
- On 31 January, [Addameer](#) published the report “The Impact of Israel’s New Ultranationalist Government on the Palestinian Prisoners’ Movement”, which highlights the harsher stance taken by the new Israeli Government towards Palestinian political prisoners. Addameer also informed that Israeli authorities issued around 2,409 administrative detention orders against Palestinians during the year 2022 alone, including new orders and renewal orders as well.
- On 30 January, [al Mezan](#) issued a press release informing that Israel's policies against Palestinians prevent family reunification between Gaza and West Bank families. Al Mezan highlighted that the closure of Gaza, rooted in stringent restrictions on freedom of movement and a discriminatory permit regime, serves to fragment Palestinian society and divide Palestinian families. Families in which the spouses have West Bank ID and residency, and a Gaza ID and residency, are routinely denied family reunification applications by Israeli authorities, effectively preventing them from moving to the West Bank together. Palestinian women are disproportionately affected by these harsh measures, as they are forced to live apart from their spouses and families residing in the West Bank, raising their children alone, or forced to move to Gaza.
- On 30 January, [Adalah](#) informed that the Israeli Knesset passed the first reading of a bill to revoke the citizenship or permanent residency of Palestinians who committed a terrorist act. Adalah stated that the bill seeks to further expand Israel’s longstanding policy of creating two separate legal tracks for citizenship based on racial identity, as this measure is designed to be used exclusively against Palestinians.
- On 28 January, the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) informed that the first Annual Palestine Forum was launched in Doha on that day. During the forum, over 100 academics presented their papers and participated in workshops to discuss different themes related to Palestine

Studies. The Forum gathered over 300 attendees including activists, journalists, lawyers, politicians, and intellectuals.

- On 27 January, [al Haq](#) published an article calling for immediate and concrete actions from the international community in light of the 26 January Israeli military operation on Jenin Refugee Camp, when nine Palestinians were killed, including two children and one woman. Al Haq stated that this Israeli military operation violated international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law, and amounted to international crimes prosecutable under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The article further reads that that this operation is reminiscent of the killing of 52 Palestinians in 2002 in Jenin Refugee Camp and town during the second Intifada. The [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) published an article on the Jenin operation as well.
- On 16 January, [HaMoked](#) published “[On Flimsy Grounds: Israel’s Pervasive Night Arrests of Palestinian Children](#)”, its third report in five years concerning this issue. The report covers the latest developments in HaMoked’s litigation challenging Israel’s policy of night arrests and reveals new data. In late 2020, HaMoked petitioned the Israeli High Court of Justice to compel the Israeli security forces to cease the widespread practice of night arrests of Palestinian children in the West Bank, and to rely on summons via their parents as the first recourse when children are wanted for interrogation. The petition was based on dozens of affidavits of children who had been arrested, indicating that pre-planned night arrests are highly traumatic and accompanied by numerous violations of basic rights, yet are used by the security forces as the default for bringing in children for interrogation.

### **Asia and Europe**

- On 26 January, [Amnesty International](#) published the article “Jenin bloodshed is a horrifying reminder of the cost of impunity”, following the killing of at least nine Palestinians by Israeli forces during a military raid on Jenin refugee camp. Amnesty International stated that Jenin refugee camp has been at the centre of Israel’s escalating military crackdown for almost a year. Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was shot dead in the camp last May, and its residents continue to be subjected to relentless military raids—which amount to collective punishment—and unlawful killings, with little to no accountability. The [Palestinian Return Centre](#) also condemned those killings.

### **North America**

- On 30 January, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) and [al Shabaka](#) organized the panel discussion “Who Can Speak on Palestine?”, the first episode in a four-part series, Learning and Unlearning Palestine. Featuring Nour Joudah (UC Berkeley), Dina Matar (SOAS, University of London), in conversation with Maha Nassar (University of Arizona), this conversation examined the history and current reality of the erasure of the Palestinian narrative, the delegitimization of Palestinian voices in mainstream spaces, and possibilities for change. This discussion will be followed by another event on 8 February titled “[Limited](#)

[Paradigms](#)”, examining various limiting paradigms that have sought to contain the Palestinian experience and limit critique on the Israeli settler colonial project.

- On 27 January, [J Street](#) issued a statement to express its deep concerns in relation to the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory and called for firm and proactive US leadership to encourage restraint and help prevent any further escalation in violence. The statement further reads that to help end the cycle of violence and secure a safe and equal future for both peoples, the US must pursue policies designed not only to manage or reduce tensions, but ultimately to transform the deteriorating status quo of endless conflict and permanent occupation.

### **United Nations**

- During the reporting period, many prominent UN representatives issued statements calling for a de-escalation of tensions following the recent rise in violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In particular, the [Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, and UN [Special Rapporteurs](#) condemned renewed Israeli attacks against the Jenin Refugee Camp in the occupied West Bank on that killed at least nine Palestinians.
- On 29 January, [UNICEF](#) raised awareness on the situation of children in the latest escalation of violence that has left many children dead and injured in the State of Palestine and Israel, adding that all children are entitled to special protection under international human rights law, and all their rights including the right to life and protection must be upheld at all times. UNICEF noted that children continue to pay the highest price of violence, in fact, since the start of 2023, 7 Palestinian children and one Israeli child have been killed, while many more were injured or have been affected by the spiral of violence. As the situation remains very volatile, UNICEF fears that an increasing number of children will suffer, and appeals to all parties to de-escalate, exercise the utmost restraint and refrain from using violence, especially against children, in accordance with international law.
- On 25 January, OCHA published the [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) and the [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) for 2023. OCHA highlighted that the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) is one of the most complex and challenging environments in which the United Nations operates. The Humanitarian Country Team estimated that approximately 2.1 million Palestinians will require some kind of assistance in the OPT in 2023, with 1.6 million identified as the most vulnerable. Of these, 1.3 million are in the Gaza Strip and approximately 800,000 in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

*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*

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