

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

NGO Action News

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Middle East

- On 15 February, [Peace Now](#) informed that the Israeli Security and Political Cabinet approved the establishment of 9 new settlements by authorizing illegal outposts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The authorization of the outposts will approve approximately 335 housing units. Access routes for some of the outposts also involve trespassing on private Palestinian land, while three of the outposts are partially located in fire zones. [Peace Now](#) also stated that the Israeli parliament has approved the first reading of a bill that aims to reverse the 2005 Disengagement Law, which led to the removal of Israeli settlements and military forces from the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank. The bill only pertains to the northern West Bank and seeks to legalize the illegal settlement outpost of Homesh. In addition, on 6 February, [Peace Now](#) informed that the Israeli Government advanced plans for a new settlement in the Qalandiya area in East Jerusalem including 9,000 housing units. The plan includes approximately 9,000 new housing units and a large commercial and industrial area. Peace Now stated that the implementation of this plan would have a devastating impact on an eventual two-State solution, as it would prevent a territorial continuity for a future Palestinian state. The area in question, adjacent to the Qalandiya checkpoint and between Ramallah, Kfar Akev, and Beit Hanina, is densely populated and includes other Palestinian villages and refugee camps.
- On 14 February, [Al-Shabaka](#) organized the panel discussion “Israeli Demographic Engineering Across Colonized Palestine.” Panellists discussed how the Israeli regime subjects Palestinians to an intricate system of demographic control, as Israel continually revokes Palestinians’ residency rights, denies them family unification across the Green Line and beyond, strips them of Israeli citizenship, and enables their deportation. This event shed light on how Israel has engineered and implemented these policies, what their implications for the Palestinian people are, and how they can be challenged.

Asia and Europe

- On 12 February, the [Palestinian Return Centre](#) published an article informing it hosted a talk on Palestinian women’s rights, on 4 February, at a Palestine Art Exhibition in Fermanagh, Ireland. Participants discussed the fundamental role Palestinian women have played throughout Palestine’s history when it has come to resisting the occupation.

North America

- On 27 February, [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) and Al Shabaka will organize the webinar “Normalizing and Peacemaking as Discourses of Violence”. According to the organizers, panelists Inès Abdel Razek (Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy), Yara Hawari (Al-Shabaka) and Maha Nassar (University of Arizona) will discuss how the “dialogue discourse” has been used to undermine the Palestinian liberation movement, including through the insistence to engage in peace projects.
- On 13 February, [J Street](#) issued a statement calling for the US Administration to take strong measures against the Israeli Cabinet decision to approve what it considers to be a series of recent dramatic steps that would deepen Israeli control over significant portions of the West Bank, while further fragmenting and isolating Palestinian communities from each other. [Americans for Peace Now](#) also published a statement welcoming the Biden administration’s statement in opposition to the Israeli government’s most recent settlement drive and urged the administration to take concrete measures.
- On 12 February, [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) organized the podcast “Lawfare in Action: Attack on US Campaign for Palestinian Rights as a Case Study”, with FMEP President Lara Friedman, Ahmad Abuznaid (US Campaign for Palestinian Rights – USCPR) and Diala Shamas (Center for Constitutional Rights). Participants discussed about the lawsuit filed by the Jewish National Fund against USCPR — which was dismissed by a U.S. federal judge in March 2021 and is now being appealed — as well as what can be learned from this case about efforts by pro-Israel actors to instrumentalize and weaponize U.S. laws to target and suppress Palestinian activism and solidarity.
- On 9 February, [Human Rights Watch](#) published an article criticizing the recent statement made by EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell on behalf of the Commission, responding to parliamentary questions, considering that it is not appropriate to associate the term apartheid with the State of Israel. The article highlighted that many reports concluded that Israeli authorities are committing the crime of apartheid. The article further reads that the EU must recognize the reality of apartheid and take the sort of human rights measures that a situation of this gravity warrants, including supporting efforts to ensure accountability for and ending all forms of complicity in serious abuses.
- On 9 February, [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) published the podcast “Dispatches from the Near Future”. In this episode of Occupied Thoughts, Jihad Abusalim (FMEP 2022 Palestinian Non-Resident Fellow) spoke with Sarah Anne Minkin (FMEP Director of Programs and Partnerships) about the political and historical context of current escalations and his expectations for what the coming weeks and months will bring.

United Nations

- On 22 February at 10 a.m., the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) (CEIRPP) will convene the 410th Committee Meeting in the Economic and Social Council Chamber (ECOSOC) at UNHQ in New York. At this meeting the Secretary General will preside over the Bureau elections and the Committee will adopt its Programme of Work for 2023. The meeting will be live streamed on [UN Web TV](#).
- On 15 February, the Chair of the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#), Ambassador Cheick Niang, issued a tweet calling on Israel to stop legalizing nine illegal outposts in the occupied West Bank, stating that, under international law, all Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are considered illegal”. The [UN Secretary-General](#) also issued a statement expressing his is deep concerns for the Israeli Security Cabinet announcement.
- On 12 February, the Chair of the [CEIRPP](#) delivered a statement at the League of Arab State Conference on Jerusalem held in Cairo and where the Secretary-General also delivered a video message.

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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