

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

## NGO Action News

23 February 2023

### Middle East

- On 24 February, the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) will organize a discussion on the book “Protecting Human Rights in Occupied Palestine: Working Through the United Nations”. This book is an examination of UN efforts to protect Palestinian human rights in the territories occupied by Israel more than 50 years ago in the 1967 War. Working through the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, three top international legal experts – Richard Falk, John Dugard and Michael Lynk – served for six consecutive years as Special Rapporteurs with a UN mandate to report on Israeli violations of international humanitarian law and human rights standards. Their book recounts their frustrations, their trials, their experiences, and their conclusions.
- On 21 February, [Al Haq](#) informed that 88 Palestinian, regional and international civil society organisations published a letter welcoming the announcement by the Barcelona City Council to suspend all institutional relations with Israel. Al Haq informed that the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, officially announcing that the Barcelona City Council will cut ties with Israel and its institutions, including the twinning agreement with the Tel Aviv City Council, “until Israeli authorities put an end to the system of violations of Palestinian human rights”.
- On 19 February, [Peace Now](#) informed that the Israeli government will advance over 6,000 housing units in settlements, including the authorization of five additional outposts. Among the plans, five illegal outposts will be authorized. Although four out of the five will be officially considered as neighborhoods of existing settlements, in practice, the plans will establish new settlements on the ground. This is due to both the significant expansion to the outpost’s size and the considerable distance from the settlements they will officially be annexed to. The outposts that will be authorized are different from the ten that had already received approval for authorization at the beginning of last week from the Israeli Cabinet.
- 15 February, [Ir Amim](#) informed that numerous Palestinian families across the Jerusalem Old City Basin are concurrently facing imminent eviction or potentially decisive hearings on eviction cases, placing over 80 individuals at risk of forced displacement. According to Ir Amim, the eviction orders claims have been filed on the basis of inherently discriminatory Israeli laws by settler groups working in collaboration with the State to expand Jewish settlements in the heart of Palestinian neighborhoods. If the evictions are carried out, this would not only constitute an acute violation of human rights and International Law, but also carry a severe humanitarian impact on the families and further erode conditions for an agreed political future.

- On 15 February, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) published an article drawing attention to the suffering of Palestinian children with cancer, including 350 children living in the Gaza Strip and facing a difficult and lengthy journey to receive treatment due to the Israeli authorities' practices and the repercussions of the Palestinian political division. These children suffer from the Israeli-imposed restrictions on their travel with their companions for treatment outside the Gaza Strip. They also suffer from lack of specialized medical personnel, poor diagnostic equipment, and lack of many treatment protocols and medical supplies.
- On 15 February, [Adalah](#) published an article informing that the Israeli Knesset has passed a bill to revoke the citizenship or permanent residency of Palestinians, in relation to "terrorist acts" and who received money from the Palestinian Authority in relation to a "breach of loyalty" and to deport them to the Palestinian Authority. Adalah stated that the law explicitly and exclusively targets Palestinians as part of Israel's entrenchment of two separate legal systems.
- [BADIL](#) and the Global Palestinian Refugee Network launched a call for submission to the "Resisting the Ongoing Nakba" Photograph Contest, under the slogan "75 years of Ongoing Nakba... 75 years of ongoing Resistance". The organizations informed that the best 25 photographs will be displayed in various international exhibitions, including the United Nations headquarters in New York and in the UN Office at Geneva.

### **Asia and Europe**

- On 20 February, the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) (NRC) alerted that over 120,000 Palestinians in Gaza are living in 21,500 homes that have no windows, safe roofs or doors, leaving families to face winter conditions in unprotected shelters. NRC also stated that 2,000 homes are still destroyed following multiple military escalations over the last decade. Many families have to stay with relatives, resulting in overcrowded conditions and a heightened risk of winter-related illnesses.
- On 27 January, [Law for Palestine](#), in partnership with the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD), organized a webinar entitled "On the Table of the International Court of Justice (ICJ): The Legality/Illegality of Israeli Occupation and the Subsequent International Responsibility". The webinar addressed the question referred to the ICJ on the legality/illegality of the Israeli occupation, including the ICJ jurisdiction, and the legal consequences of such opinion, especially with regard to the third states responsibility to bring the occupation to an end. The webinar hosted four speakers: Miloon Kothari (Member of the UN commission of inquiry on Palestine/Israel), Giulia Pinzauti (International Criminal Law expert at Leiden University), Ralph Wilde (International Law expert at University College London), and Susan Power (Head of Research and Advocacy at Al-Haq).

### **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 21 February, [J Street](#) issued a statement welcoming the new statement by the United Nations Security Council, supported by the United States, over Israeli settlement expansions and adopted on 20 February, as an important rebuke of the Israeli government’s moves to accelerate settlement expansion and annexation in the occupied West Bank. J Street added that statement expressed concern over the “legalization” of settlement outposts and demolition and displacement of Palestinian communities.
- On 20 February, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast “The Delusion of the Supreme Court as a last bastion of human rights in Israel”. FMEP Non-resident fellow Peter Beinart, Nathaniel Berman (Brown University) and Sawsan Zaher (human rights attorney) discussed the notion that the Israeli Supreme Court – even before the proposed judicial reforms – is a protector of human rights and democratic principles in Israel. This conversation addressed the current protests against Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s overhaul, and the historic role the Israeli Supreme Court has played in the systematically oppression of Palestinians, or allowing it.

### **United Nations**

- On 22 February, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) (CEIRPP) convened for its 410th Committee Meeting in the Economic and Social Council Chamber at UNHQ in New York. At this meeting the Secretary General presided over the Bureau elections and the Committee adopted its Programme of Work for 2023. The meeting was live streamed on [UN Web TV](#).
- On 20 February, [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, briefed the Security Council on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, and called upon the parties to match security efforts with political steps that can halt the negative slide and restore hope in an end to the conflict and prospects for a viable two-State Solution. [UNRWA](#) Deputy Commissioner-General Leni Stenseth also briefed to the Security Council meeting, highlighting that competing global priorities and shifting regional dynamics have almost annihilated any remaining attention to the plight of Palestine refugees today. Following the briefing, the [Security Council](#) adopted a Presidential Statement expressing its deep concern and dismay over Israel’s recent announcement of further construction and expansion of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as well as the “legalization” of settlement outposts, as United Nations senior officials briefed members on the latest developments on the ground. The Statement reaffirmed the unwavering commitment to the vision of a two-State solution where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognized borders.

Stressing that both peoples are entitled to equal measures of freedom, security, prosperity and dignity, it reiterated that continued Israeli settlement activities are dangerously imperiling the viability of a two-State solution.

*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>