

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 March, [BADIL](#) informed that the organization submitted a report to the UN Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights to inform her upcoming global study on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on civil society and civic space. BADIL's submission highlighted Israel's systematic attack on Palestinian civil society, arguing that to stifle dissent and establish a system of domination and control over the Palestinian people, Israel manipulates the counter-terrorism framework to target Palestinian organizations and human rights defenders that promote a rights-based approach in pursuit of liberation.
- On 9 March, [Adalah](#) published a new position paper on the legality of displaying the Palestinian flag in Israel, amid a governmental decision to advance a bill to criminalize raising it. Adalah analyzed the current legal situation regarding the waving of the Palestinian flag in Israel and the development of the Palestinian flag, from the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire, as a symbol of Palestinian collective belonging and national identity. The paper emphasizes that, to date, there has been no legal prohibition law in Israeli against waving the flag. Therefore, any attempts by the police to remove it during protests or to arrest individuals for waving it are illegal.
- On 9 March, [Gisha](#) published an article on the current protests in Israel against controversial judicial reforms pushed by the Government and the rights of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Gisha stated that for decades, millions of Palestinians have lived under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, stripped of fundamental rights and denied basic freedoms. They are not represented in the Israeli parliament and cannot vote or otherwise influence the decision-making processes that shape and dictate every detail of their lives. Gisha added that there can be no democracy without human rights for all, including for Palestinians.
- On 6 March 2023, [Al Mezan](#) addressed the United Nations Human Rights Council, calling for the international community to end Israel's longstanding impunity for its systematic violations against the Palestinian people, including by supporting the work of international mechanisms such as the International Criminal Court and the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel. As part of its regular engagement with the Council, Al Mezan delivered an oral intervention during the interactive dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who presented his latest report on the '[Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Obligation to Ensure Accountability and Justice](#)'. The statement critically asserted that the

international community's inaction towards Israeli crimes has encouraged Israel to escalate its violations of Palestinians' inalienable rights for over 75 years.

- On 5 March, [Physicians for Human Rights](#) published an article informing that human rights organizations in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory warned of a dangerous escalation in violations of Palestinian prisoners' rights due to the radical policies of the new Israeli government. The article reads that while Palestinians imprisoned by the Israeli authorities have always experienced a wholesale violation of their human rights, Israel's new government has taken numerous steps to implement a particularly hostile, radical agenda to harm Palestinians in prisons, their families, and the Palestinian society as a whole. The arbitrary and punitive measures imposed by the new Israeli government indicate that further grave rights violations may follow if immediate action is not taken by the international community.

Asia and Europe

- On 11 March, [Law For Palestine](#) published a research article titled "Is There a Role for the International Community in Palestinian State-building?", written by Marton Seidner (University of Public Service, Hungary). In this article, Seidner explores possible answers to the question of the existing role of the international community in the creation of the state of Palestine. The hypothesis of this study is that EU member states do not recognize the legitimacy of a Palestinian State despite the fact that the EU collectively supports a two-state solution. This article adopts a theoretical and empirical research-based approach and examines UN resolutions between 2012 and 2022.

North America

- On 20 March, the [Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies](#) will organize the screening of the film "R21 aka Restoring Solidarity", followed by a talk by Mohanad Yaqubi, a Palestinian filmmaker. According to the organizer, this film offers a fascinating, eclectic, and inspiring survey of cross-continental solidarity.
- On 15 March, [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast "The Cost of a Palestine Caveat: Biden Admin Chooses Politics Over Human Rights Expertise". FMEP Non-resident Fellow Peter Beinart spoke to Maya Berry (Arab American Institute) and Jim Cavallaro (University Network for Human Rights) about the Biden Administration's profile on Palestinian human rights, and an optimistic take on where the Democratic Party might be headed.
- On 13 March, [Human Rights Watch](#) (HRW) published an article informing about the submission of a memorandum to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ahead of its upcoming adoption of list of issues on Palestine. This submission highlights areas of concern to inform the Committee's consideration of the compliance by Palestinian and Israeli authorities with the Convention on the Rights of

Persons with Disabilities. This submission draws from research conducted between 2018 and 2020 in Gaza. HRW further informed that many of the grave human rights abuses carried out by Israeli authorities as part of their crimes of apartheid and persecution against Palestinians significantly impact people with disabilities, including sweeping restrictions on the movement of people and goods, as this submission lays out.

- On 9 March, [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) published the podcast “We Are Determined to Stay: One Palestinian Family’s Story of Dispossession in Jerusalem”. FMEP’s Kristin McCarthy spoke to Rafat Sub Laban (human rights lawyer) and Amy Cohen (Ir Amim) about the Sub Laban family’s 40-year legal battle against settlers (and the State) over their home in the Muslim Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem.
- On 9 March, [J Street](#) issued a press release welcoming a new letter to President Biden, signed by 92 Members of Congress, which supports determined US leadership to de-escalate conflict, protect the viability of a negotiated two-State solution, and oppose Israeli government moves to damage democratic institutions and advance annexation. In this letter, the Members of Congress noted that violence against both Israelis and Palestinians has surged in recent weeks, and that “consistent and sustained U.S. diplomatic leadership is critical to pre-empt counterproductive unilateral actions and prevent violent escalations.”

United Nations

- On 15 March, the [Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) organized a virtual event titled “Memories of the Nakba and its impact on Palestinians”, a discussion with author Nadine Sayegh, on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67). The event was moderated by H.E. Mr. Neville Gertze, Vice-Chair of the Committee and Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations. Ms. Nadine Sayegh, author of the book “Oranges from Jaffa – A True Story about the End of the Golden Age of Palestine”, discussed her book and the enduring impact of the Nakba on the lives of millions of Palestinians. The event was livestreamed on [UN Web TV](#) and [YouTube](#). The video can be found on [UNISPAL](#) website.
- On 14 March, the [Human Rights Council](#) Spokesperson stated that as part of its mandate and its investigations, the Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, will hold a second series of hearings from 20 to 24 March 2023. These hearings will focus on the shrinking space for civil society in the OPT.
- In March, [United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia](#) (ESCWA) published the report “Social and economic situation of Palestinian women and girls”. This report reviews the situation of Palestinian women and girls during the period July 2020–June 2022, focusing on political, social, economic and human rights developments. Building on research by ESCWA on the status of Palestinian women and girls, and drawing upon the most recent data, the present report highlights the complex situation of women and girls, revealing both progress and setbacks in the context of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and of the Gaza blockade.

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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