

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

## NGO Action News

9 March 2023

### Middle East

- On 8 March, many organizations in the Middle East published articles and statements to mark International Women's Day. The [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) expressed its appreciation for the Palestinian women and their role in challenging various forms of violations that directly and indirectly affect them. PCHR added that Palestinian women are still suffering from the escalating Israeli violations and practices against the Palestinian people, in addition to the ongoing Palestinian division that hinders the enactment of legislations equitable to women. [Al Mezan](#) called for the international community to protect Palestinian women from racial and gendered oppression while [Addameer](#) brought attention to Palestinian female prisoners. [B'Tselem](#) published the testimony of a married mother of three from Gaza, who talked of dealing with financial hardship and cancer while aspiring for a better future for her children. [Gisha](#), among other organizations, also published an article to mark this day.
- On 7 March, the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) invited submissions for its annual conference titled: "75 Years of an Ongoing Nakba: The Question of Knowledge Production". The conference aims at reviewing scholarly knowledge production on the Nakba and its aftermath and at examining new horizons of research on this pivotal moment in Palestinian history. The issue of the Nakba is not only historical, but one that concerns the present and future of the region. The hybrid conference will be held simultaneously in Ramallah and Beirut, with the option of virtual participation, at the end of November 2023.
- On 7 March, [B'Tselem](#) published the report "Broken Dawn: Testimonies regarding Israel's attack on the Gaza Strip, August 2022". B'Tselem's investigated the August 2022 Israel military campaign against Gaza and found that at least 17 of the people killed, including all the minors and women, were not participating in the hostilities. Another 15 Palestinians, 9 of them minors, were killed by Palestinian rockets or mortars that landed in Gaza. Despite the deadly outcomes of Israel's airstrike policy, the policymakers, legal counsel or troops on the ground are unlikely to be held accountable. B'Tselem published the stories of several of the people killed.
- On 6 March, [Al Shabaka](#) published the policy brief "Shrinking the Conflict: Debunking Israel's New Strategy". According to the author, since 2021, Israeli leaders have proposed a new series of economic policies under the approach of "shrinking the conflict." This strategy aims to afford Palestinians more economic opportunities and so-called freedoms as a way to sustain the Israeli occupation. In this policy brief, Al-Shabaka policy analyst Walid Habbas

debunks the framework and explains why Palestinians will not be pacified with economic incentives.

- On 6 March, [Al Haq](#) informed that Addameer, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, Defense for Children – Palestine (DCI-P), the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO), and the Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees (UPWC) sent a joint submission for the benefit of the Special Rapporteur’s upcoming global study on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on civil society and civic space. Specifically, the submission highlights Israel’s application of the Counter-Terrorism Law, and the 1945 Defense (Emergency) Regulations to persecute and outlaw Palestinian human rights defenders and civil society organisations.
- On 3 March, [Addameer](#) informed that several human rights organizations in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory warned of a dangerous escalation in violations of Palestinian prisoners' rights due to the policies of the new Israeli government. These organizations stated that Israel’s new government has taken numerous steps to implement a particularly hostile, radical agenda to harm Palestinians in prisons, their families, and Palestinian society as a whole. The signatory organizations urged the international community to take steps to guarantee the rights, health, and well-being of Palestinians, prevent further grave human rights violations, and demand that Israel respect its international obligations.

### **Asia and Europe**

- On 5 March, [Law for Palestine](#) informed that the University of Oxford/Refugee Studies Centre has published a research paper titled “The UNRWA and Palestinian Refugees: Protecting Refugee Rights While Structurally Addressing the Agency’s Financial Unstable Modus Operandi” by researchers Lex Takkenberg (Senior Advisor at Law for Palestine and ARDD) and Francesca Albanese (UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine). In the paper, Lex Takkenberg and Francesca Albanese are urgently pushing for a new approach to protecting the rights of Palestinian refugees. They call for a multi-party approach, instead of the current two-party approach, that focuses on the rights of refugees. They suggest a comprehensive response framework developed by multiple stakeholders and the United Nations, with a holistic approach, including but not limited to, providing assistance to refugees, protecting their rights, and developing viable long-term solutions.
- On 3 March, [Amnesty International](#) published the article “Israel/OPT: Impunity reigns for perpetrators of settler violence”. Following the Israeli authorities’ release of six Israeli settlers suspected of involvement in attacks against Palestinians in Nablus Governorate on 26 February, Amnesty International stated that impunity reigns in Israel’s apartheid system. Despite the intensity and scale of recent attacks, which resulted in the killing of one Palestinian and the wounding of nearly 400 more, Israeli police released six suspects who were arrested in connection with the attacks. Meanwhile two others have been issued with administrative detention orders, which violate international law. Amnesty International further stated that Israeli authorities have long enabled and incited settlers’ attacks against Palestinians, and in some cases soldiers have directly participated.

## **North America**

- On 8 March, [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) and Al Shabaka organized the event “Allyship & the Fight for Palestinian Liberation”, with Saleh Hijazi (BDS Movement) and Nadya Tannous (Palestinian Youth Movement) in conversation with Tariq Kenney-Shawa (Al Shabaka). In this last webinar episode in FMEP and Al Shabaka’s four-part series, “Learning and Unlearning Palestine”, the panellists explored what allyship and solidarity with the Palestinian liberation struggle has looked like, and what it can and should look like moving forward.
- On 8 March, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) commemorated International Women’s Day by holding a virtual discussion with Asmaa AbuMezied, an expert in gender and economic justice, on the current realities facing Palestinian women. The event shed light on how Palestinian women and civil society are dealing with Israel’s ever-escalating occupation, how Israel’s attacks on Palestinian civil society organizations affect the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda and on the role of the international community.
- On 2 March, [Friends of Sabeel North America](#) (FOSNA) published an article titled “Security and Double Standards”. The article argues that the security of Israelis is deemed to be of supreme value and are to be defended at all costs, justifying much hardship imposed on Palestinians. By contrast, the Palestinian civilian population lives in constant danger, always under threat of attack on their persons and property, both from the organized Israeli military and its agents and from individuals and groups of Jewish settlers with the constant protection of the Israeli army.

## **United Nations**

- On 15 March, from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00. p.m. (New York time), the [Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) will organize a virtual event on “Memories of the Nakba and its impact on Palestinians”, a discussion with Nadine Sayegh, author of the book “Oranges from Jaffa”, on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The event will be livestreamed on [UN Web TV](#) and [YouTube](#).
- On 8 March, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, issued a statement to declare being deeply disturbed by the continuing violence and appalled by the attacks of Israeli settlers against Palestinians in Huwwara, near Nablus. Israel, as the occupying power, must ensure that the civilian population is protected, and perpetrators are held to account. Tor Wennesland condemned settler violence against Palestinians and Palestinian attacks against Israelis, adding that all civilians must be protected from violence.

- On 6 March, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East ([UNRWA](#)) and the European Union held their 7th Strategic Dialogue, which is an important annual platform for both organizations to jointly assess and review their cooperation, in line with the Joint Declaration signed for the period 2021-2024. During the high-level meeting, participants discussed the challenging political and financial environment in which UNRWA operates, and agreed on the importance of ensuring adequate, predictable and sustainable funding for the Agency to continue delivering on its mandate and contributing to regional stability.
- [UNISPAL](#) published the February 2023 Monthly Bulletin on Action by UN System and Intergovernmental Organizations Relevant to the Question of Palestine.

*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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