

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

NGO Action News

30 March 2023

Middle East

- On 29 March, [Al Shabaka](#) published the report “Confronting Energy Poverty in Gaza.” According to this report, since 2006, Palestinians in Gaza have suffered from a worsening energy crisis due to the Israeli blockade. As a result, they have sought alternative sources of energy that are funded by donor aid, as well as governmental and private-sector initiatives. While these schemes can provide Palestinians with short-term solutions to alleviate their energy needs, they fail to confront the fundamental obstacles imposed by the Israeli blockade, thus depoliticizing the energy crisis and perpetuating the status quo.
- On 28 March, [7amleh](#) published the results of its annual report on the index of racism and incitement in public conversations published in Hebrew on the Internet during the year 2022. The report shows that the year 2022 witnessed a significant increase in the volume of violent speech directed at the Arab and Palestinian communities, as violent speech increased by 10% compared to 2021, and the number of violent publications published through networks in the Hebrew language reached 685 thousand conversations, compared to 620 thousand violent publications during the year 2021.
- On 27 March, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) launched a new report on “Medical Equipment and Medicines in Gaza Strip: Perpetual Shortage and Serious Repercussions”. The report addresses the deteriorating health conditions in the Gaza Strip and sheds light on the suffering of Gaza Strip’s patients triggered by the frail health system and its inability to provide medicines and medical equipment for the governmental health facilities. The report also highlights the Israeli authorities’ restrictions on the entry of medical equipment; most notably the diagnostic medical devices used for diagnosing and treating cancer patients such as the interventional radiology and ultrasonography devices as well as oxygen generating stations.
- On 27 March, the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#) (IPS) published a call for papers on the topic “Mediating Palestine: Representation, Mobilization, Experimentation, and Play.” IPS stated that Palestinian media have emerged as a vibrant field of inquiry in recent decades, having expanded from film, photography, political cartoons, and news narratives to include video, digital, and social media. Many Palestinians are involved in media production, entwined as it is with political struggle, cultural preservation, human rights documentation, family histories, and artistic expression. IPS is hence seeking for papers on media practices that represent, animate, or mobilize Palestinians today in areas, including but not limited to documentary,

journalism, advocacy, social media, artistic practice, and filmmaking, both fiction and experimental.

- On 24 March, [Peace Now](#) informed that the Israeli government published tenders for 940 new housing units in the settlements of Efrat and Beitar Illit, and 89 in East Jerusalem. Peace Now further stated that despite Israel's commitments to its allies around the world, it appears to continue promoting construction that harms the chances for a political agreement and increases tensions between Israelis and Palestinians in both the short and long term.
- On 22 March, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) published an article to mark International Water Day. PCHR stressed that, at the Palestinian level, efforts and steps taken to achieve water security and sustainable development are slow-paced in the face of the ongoing Israeli discriminatory policies and its control over 85% of Palestinian water resources, including groundwater basins and the Jordan River Basin water resources. Furthermore, Israel has undermined the capabilities of governmental bodies in the Gaza Strip, to manage the water issue by targeting the infrastructure and water networks during military offensives.
- On 14 March, Addameer and [Al-Haq](#) jointly delivered an oral intervention under interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as part of their engagement with the 52nd session of the Human Rights Council. The intervention highlighted Israel's use of torture and cruel treatment against Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The statement also addressed Israel's use of administrative detention, causing psychological distress and helplessness, with 967 administrative detainees, including five children, being currently held indefinitely without trial.

Asia and Europe

- On 29 March, [Law For Palestine](#) delivered an oral statement in the 47th meeting of the 52nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council. Law For Palestine called upon the UN to take serious action to enforce Resolution 2334 and called upon the Council to urge Israel to fulfill its obligations as an Occupying Power under the Fourth Geneva Convention. The organization further called upon Third States to uphold their responsibilities towards ending Israel's illegal military occupation of Palestine.
- On 15 March, the [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) (NRC) published an article on a program it implements in the Palestinian town of Beita to address the trauma among children caused by Israeli settler and military violence. NRC informed that life in the occupied West Bank town of Beita, near Nablus, has been turned upside down ever since Israeli settlers re-established the Evyatar outpost in May 2021. Weekly protests against the land grab have resulted in clashes with Israeli forces. The violence has affected the daily life of almost every single resident of the town, including children.

North America

- On 7 April, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) will organize a discussion with Mohammed Sawaie on his new book of translated Palestinian poetry, “The Tent Generations.” This book brings together the work of a select number of Palestinian poets, over the past seven decades, which gives expression to the Palestinian experience under Israeli rule and Israeli occupation, as well as the experience of dispersion and displacement from their homeland following the Nakba and subsequent wars. This collection shows how Palestinian poets used their poetry to describe their relationship to the Palestinian people, their homeland, and the Israeli occupation.
- On 3 April, the [Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies](#) will organize a discussion with Gary Fields, author of a new book project “Imprisoned: Voices and Images from Confinement Landscapes in Palestine.” According to the organizers, this work in progress book is a detailed investigation into a vanishing Palestinian landscape that is disappearing under the onslaught of colonization and settlement imposed on the land by the State of Israel. Enlisting a descriptive ethnography, alongside photographic images taken by the author, this presentation reveals the lived experience of three individuals confronted by confinement in three different Palestinian localities.

United Nations

- On 23 March, [OCHA](#) published an article highlighting the impact of the construction of the barrier for families relying on farming and whose farmland is now separated from the community. OCHA recalled that 85 per cent of the Barrier route runs inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory rather than on the internationally recognized border. The Barrier therefore separates Palestinian from their families, from basic services, and from livelihoods, increasing people’s dependency on humanitarian assistance.

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>