

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

## **NGO Action News**

**6 April 2023**

### **Middle East**

- On 5 April, the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) published an article to mark Palestinian Child Day, on the anniversary of the first Palestinian Child Conference on 5 April 1995. PCHR recalled that Palestinian children suffer from the Israeli Forces' escalating violations and ongoing discriminatory measures against the Palestinian people. Among other recommendations, PCHR called on the international community to provide protection for the Palestinian children and exert pressure on Israel to end their recurrent attacks, as well as to take immediate action to Israel accountable for its violations.
- On 4 April, [B'Tselem](#) informed that in 2022, too, Israel prevented thousands of Palestinians in need of medical care from leaving Gaza for treatment, denying more than 20,000 requests by patients and persons escorting them to access medical care in hospitals outside Gaza. Patients are sometimes unable to travel alone for medical treatment, due to their condition or age. According to B'Tselem, Israel permits applying for people to escort them, but often rejects the requests either directly or indirectly. When escort requests are denied, the patients must repeat the process with no guarantee of success. Over the course of 2022, 26,520 applications were filed for escorts, 16,365 (62%) of which were rejected.
- On 3 April, [Ir Amim](#) informed that the Israeli authorities promoted outline plans for some 6,500 housing units in new or existing settlements in East Jerusalem despite Israel's repeated commitments to a temporary moratorium on settlement advancements. On March 29, the Jerusalem Local Planning Committee advanced the plans for the Wadi Joz Business Center (Silicon Wadi), Lower Aqueduct, and Ramot North A and B. On March 3, the Jerusalem District Planning Committee convened discussions on five settlement plans in French Hill/Mount Scopus (2), Givat Shaked, Pisgat Ze'ev, and Ramot. Combined, these plans constitute a significant new stage of settlement expansion in East Jerusalem, further diminishing the prospects of an agreed political resolution and undermining Palestinian rights to their homes and the city.
- On 1 April, [Al-Haq](#) Center for Applied International Law announced the opening of the application for the Summer School Programme 2023. Candidates can choose to participate in the program either in presence, in Palestine from 12<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> June, or online from 18<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> July. The programme provides participants with an understanding of the legal and human rights situation in Palestine, including lectures, discussions and field visits provided by human rights professionals on key human rights themes and trends concerning the Palestinian people. The programme includes a historical overview of the situation, the perspective of

international human rights and humanitarian law, and international accountability mechanisms.

- On 30 March, [Al Mezan](#) published an article to mark the fifth anniversary of the start of the “Great March of Return” protests in Gaza, and nearly nine years on from Israel’s assault on Gaza in 2014. Al Mezan stated that a chronic impunity continues to prevail across the board for grave attacks on Palestinian healthcare. There have been no charges, prosecutions or convictions for these attacks on healthcare, including damages to hospitals and health centers, and other well-documented potential serious violations. The article further reads that persisting impunity reinforces long-standing concerns that Israel’s military investigations are not genuine and provide only injustice for victims, survivors and their families.

### **Asia and Europe**

- Several organizations reported having delivered statements during the UN Human Rights Council fifty-second session. [Amnesty International](#) gave an oral statement during Item 7 on the “Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories”, stating that along with other organizations, UN officials and other human rights experts, it has assessed that Israel is imposing apartheid on all Palestinians whose rights it controls. Apart from some welcome statements, concrete actions from states remain elusive. Amnesty International also urged members of the Human Rights Council to renew the UN Database of companies operating in settlements and support the work of the Commission of Inquiry, towards ending impunity for violations of international law. Furthermore, [Law For Palestine](#) delivered an oral statement as well, shedding light on the double standards regarding Russia-Ukraine vs. Israel-Palestine, and called on all states to adopt universal jurisdiction measures in their national courts and support the ICC investigation rather than hinder it. The [Palestinian Return Centre](#) also delivered a statement calling for an immediate end to Israel’s Government policies against Palestinians.

### **North America**

- On 13 April, the [Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies](#) will organize a discussion on the topic “Race and catastrophe: lessons from Palestine”, with Sherene Seikaly (Associate Professor of History at the University of California) and Nadia Abu El-Haj (Barnard College and Columbia University and Co-Director of the Center for Palestine Studies). Participants will discuss what Palestine can teach about the global history of race, capital, slavery, and dispossession, and the relationship between land and colonialism. This talk will reflect on Palestine’s lessons in and with the movement for global racial justice.
- On 5 April, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the podcast “Palestinian Public Health & Israeli Apartheid: Challenges, Possibilities, and Priorities”. In this episode of Occupied Thoughts, FMEP 2023 Palestinian Non-resident Fellow Dr. Yara Asi spoke with FMEP’s Sarah Anne Minkin about how to understand Palestinian public health, especially in the West Bank and Gaza. Participants also discussed the impacts of Israeli apartheid and

occupation on Palestinian public health, the role of the Palestinian Authority and priorities for change.

- On 29 March, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) (FMEP) published the webinar “The Quest for Justice for Palestine at the ICC and ICJ: Where Things Stand Today & Why it Matters.” FMEP’s Lara Friedman spoke to Vito Todeschini (legal expert in human rights law, international humanitarian law and international accountability) about ongoing efforts to enforce some measure of accountability on Israel for its actions vis-a-vis Palestinians via international legal bodies – most notably the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.
- On 22 March, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) held an event to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the death of Rachel Corrie, an American human rights activist and a member of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM). The Jerusalem Fund informed that during the Second Intifada in the early 2000s, Rachel Corrie travelled with a group of ISM activists to Gaza to protest the Israeli occupation. On March 16, 2003, Rachel was killed by an Israeli bulldozer as she stood between the bulldozer and a Palestinian home to prevent its demolition. The event underscored the issue of accountability and the dire need for a just legal system in the context of Israel’s occupation, where Palestinians and activists are subjected to unfair treatment without recourse to justice.

### **United Nations**

- On 6 April, the Bureau of the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) (CEIRPP) issued a statement condemning the raid by Israeli Forces inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound/Al-Haram Al-Sharif on 4 April 2023, which resulted in hundreds of Palestinian worshippers beaten, injured and detained while also causing damage to the building of the al-Qibli mosque. Furthermore, the Bureau calls for respect the freedom of all worshippers to access the religious sites in accordance with established parameters.
- On 5 April, the [UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process](#), Tor Wennesland, issued a statement condemning the recent violent incidents inside the al-Qibli mosque in East Jerusalem. Tor Wennesland called on political, religious and community leaders on all sides to reject incitement, inflammatory rhetoric, and provocative actions. He further added that the historic status quo of the Holy Sites must be upheld.
- On 30 March, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) (CEIRPP) published its quarterly Newsletter on Recent Activities. The newsletter highlights the advocacy efforts, events and activities conducted by CEIRPP activities during the period January-March 2023.

*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>