

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

NGO Action News

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Middle East

- On 17 April, [Ir Amin](#) informed that the Jerusalem District Planning Committee advanced plans for Israeli settlements in French Hill, Givat Shaked & Pisgat Ze'ev, for a total of some 2,969 housing units. Ir Amin stated that the plans are among a spate of settlement advancements, which will entrench Israeli control over more territory in East Jerusalem, while further detaching it from the West Bank in all directions. Such developments only continue to cement a one-state reality of perpetual occupation whereby one group is afforded full civil and human rights while the other is deprived of those rights.
- On 17 April, [Adalah](#) marked Palestinian Prisoners' Day by highlighting the plight of Palestinians imprisoned in Israeli jails, currently estimated at 4,900. According to Adalah, Israel has been persistently targeting Palestinian prisoners through the implementation of arbitrary laws and policies and creating separate legal mechanisms that are applied only to Palestinians. [Association France Palestine Solidarité](#) published an article to mark that day as well.
- On 17 April, [Al-Haq](#) informed that the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) submitted an urgent appeal to the United Nations (UN) Special Procedures calling for the immediate release of Palestinian political prisoner Walid Daqqa. Mr Daqqa was recently diagnosed with bone marrow cancer and facing imminent deteriorating health conditions due to Israeli Prison Services (IPS) policy of deliberate medical neglect. PHROC urged Israel to immediately grant him humanitarian and guarantee his right to life, health, and dignity. [BADIL](#) and the Global Palestinian Refugee Network also issued a statement calling on the UN Secretary-General for his immediate and direct intervention to free Walid Daqqa.
- On 16 April, [HaMoked](#) informed that the Jerusalem Court for Administrative Affairs accepted a series of appeals and reversed an Appeal Tribunal judgment which upheld for the first time revocation of family unification status "for deterrence purposes," as family unification status cannot be revoked as a collective punishment. The judgment was issued in the matter of 10 Palestinians who have been living in East Jerusalem for years with stay permits or temporary residency status in the framework of family unification and child registration processes and who are somehow related to an assailant who committed a lethal attack against Israelis.

- On 16 April, [Peace Now](#) informed that the Israeli government established a new settlement by approving 189 housing units in the remote outpost of Zayit Raanan, North-West of Ramallah. While currently there is a small number of caravans in the outpost, the plan promotes 189 housing units. The establishment of the settlement is part of strengthening the Israeli presence in the West Bank area west of Ramallah, and it has additional implications for Palestinian villages in the area.

Asia and Europe

- On 13 April, the [European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine](#) (ECCP) published the briefing note “Horizon Europe: Funding death, displacement and discrimination in Palestine.” According to ECCP, European Union research subsidies have been a crucial source of funding for Israeli academic institutions, businesses, and government agencies, such as many military companies, that are deeply involved in human rights abuses and international law violations – including entities operating in, and profiting from, illegal Israeli settlements. Concerns about EU taxpayer money going to Israeli businesses and institutions implicated in war crimes and human rights violations have been voiced by Members of the European Parliament, and many European and Palestinian civil society and human rights organizations for many years.
- On 8 April, [Law For Palestine](#) published a research article from John Bernard Qiuqley, titled: “Prohibition of Palestine Arab Return to Israel as a Crime Against Humanity.” According to this paper, over seven million Palestinian Arabs are displaced throughout the world mainly based in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and within Palestine. They are prohibited from going back to their home country although their right to return is protected by international law and recognized as a fundamental right. According to the author, denying this civilian population their internationally defined rights— due to ethnicity or nationality— constitutes a crime that can be prosecuted at the International Criminal Court.

North America

- On 21 April, the [Columbia University Center for Palestine Studies](#) will organize the event “Walking on a fractured map: Landscape shorts from Palestine.” This event will screen four documentary short films that explore geography using a range of techniques, including cartographic mapping, 3D reconstruction, soundscape recordings, digital spatial imaginaries, that all reverberate through the poetics of Palestinian landscape. The screenings will be followed by a response by Alessandra Amin, the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Palestine Studies.
- On 14 April, [Americans for Peace Now](#) (APN) published an article welcoming a Congressional letter urging U.S. President Joe Biden to ensure U.S. Aid to Israel does not support Human Rights violations. APN informed that Congressman Jamaal Bowman and Senator Bernie Sanders led twelve of their colleagues in sending a letter to President Joe

Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken calling on the administration to determine whether U.S.-origin defense articles sent to Israel have been used in violation of existing U.S. laws and to ensure that all future foreign assistance to Israel is not used to support gross violations of human rights.

- On 14 April, [Friends of Sabeel North America](#) (FOSNA) published an article informing that Israel announced new restrictions on Christian celebrations this year, limiting the number of worshippers allowed at the Holy Sepulcher for the Holy Fire celebration and canceling all 700 permits for Christians from Gaza to come to Jerusalem. This comes on the heels of increased attacks on Christian clergy and holy sites, churches, and cemeteries. FOSNA added that the restrictions on Muslims from accessing their holy places have been even greater and criticized Israel for violating the status quo at the Holy Sites.
- On 12 April, the [Jerusalem Fund](#) published the article “Milk, Mushrooms, and Resistance: Palestinians’ Creative Solutions to Israel’s Economic Oppression”. According to this article, throughout history, Palestinians have adopted different forms of resistance in their struggle to end their oppression under Israeli occupation. One such effective form of resistance during the First Intifada was the resistance economy. The resistance economy in the case of Palestine is a social and economic instrument that empowers ordinary people through the establishment of a self-sufficient economy, independent of Israeli control. By boycotting Israeli products, organizing strikes, and withholding tax payments, Palestinians exercised unarmed pressure on Israel to end its oppressive policies. The resistance economy demonstrated the ability of ordinary Palestinians to become self-reliant and economically empowered.

United Nations

- On 15 May, the [UN Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) (CEIRPP) will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Nakba at UN Headquarters in New York. The anniversary marks the mass displacement of Palestinians in 1948, known as “the Nakba” or “the Catastrophe”. For the first time, the UN will mark the anniversary as requested under the General Assembly resolution A/RES/77/23 of 30 November 2022. The CEIRPP will organize a High-Level Committee Meeting on 15 May 2023, from 10 am to 12.30 pm (NY Time) in Conference Room 4. Commemorations will continue in the evening with a Special Commemorative Event of the Nakba in the General Assembly Hall from 6 pm to 8 pm (NY Time). The event will bring to life the Palestinian journey and aim to create an immersive experience of the Nakba through live music, photos, videos, and personal testimonies.
- On 13 April, [UN Special Rapporteurs](#) issued a press release “urging the International Community to end the forced displacement and annexation of Occupied Palestinian Territory”. The press release was signed by Francesca Albanese, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967; Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing; and Paula Gaviria Betancur, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons. Despite efforts of

international organizations and activists, Palestinians under Israeli occupation continue to be forced out of their homes and dispossessed of their land and properties on the basis of discriminatory laws,” the experts said. They said these laws were designed to consolidate Jewish ownership in Jerusalem, irredeemably altering its demographic composition and status. “Israel’s transfer of its own population into the occupied territory confirms a deliberate intention to colonise the territory it occupies – a practice strictly prohibited by international humanitarian law,” they said, reiterating their past statement. “It amounts to a prima facie war crime.”

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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