

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

NGO Action News

4 May 2023

Middle East

- On 3 May, [Al Mezan](#) published an article to mark World Press Freedom Day, stating that Israel systematically violates the rights of Palestinian journalists and media professionals. noting that Israeli military attacks regularly target press institutions, their offices, and vehicles. Al Mezan further called on third States and the international community to uphold their moral and legal obligations towards the Palestinian people, including by guaranteeing respect for the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) also published an article stating that the Israeli occupation and Palestinian internal divisions are hampering the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press in Palestine.
- On 2 May, [B'Tselem](#) published the report “Parched: Israel’s policy of water deprivation in the West Bank”, noting that the water shortage is an intentional outcome of Israel’s deliberately discriminatory policy, which views water as another means for controlling the Palestinian population in the West Bank. According to B’Tselem, average Israeli daily water consumption is 247 liters per person – three times the amount used by Palestinians in the West Bank, which is 82.4 liters. Only 36% of the latter have daily running water.
- On 1 May, the [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) published an article on International Workers’ Day expressing support for the struggle of the Palestinian workers. PCHR highlighted Israeli authorities’ violations of their rights and the absence of a national system of social protection and security that preserves the workers’ rights under the deteriorating economic conditions during the past years. The article informed that Palestinian employment reached 1,133 million; 655 thousand in the West Bank, 285 thousand in Gaza Strip and 193 thousand working in Israel and Israeli settlements.
- On 30 April, [Al Mezan](#) informed that the Palestinian NGOs Network (PNGO) called for Palestinians to boycott Europe Day Celebrations on 9 May and cancel meetings with EU delegations throughout May 2023 in protest against what they consider to be offensive statements made by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen in recent days. PNGO stated that in her video message, von der Leyen adopted the Israeli narrative and denied the Nakba of the Palestinian people and their displacement from their homeland. [Al Haq](#) published an article on this issue as well expressing a similar position.
- On 30 April, [7amleh](#) published the position paper “Endless Violation and Mistreatment of Palestinians’ Right to Privacy and Personal Data.” This paper provides an overview of the

right to privacy, with a focus on personal data, in the OPT, highlighting shortcomings in Palestinian legislation. In addition, 7amleh examined the required independent standards, systems, regulations, and procedures that guarantee the implementation of the right to privacy, obligate the responsible authorities to monitor and hold violators accountable, and hold decision-makers responsible.

- On 30 April, [Peace Now](#) informed that the Israeli Civil Administration announced that drilling and inspection work would begin in early May for the preparation for paving a road between el-Azariya and a-Za'im, near the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. The road is of great importance for the Government of Israel to fulfill its intentions to annex Ma'ale Adumim to Israel and to promote the construction plan in the E1 area, East of Jerusalem. According to Peace Now, the road will enable the Government of Israel to close off a vast area in the heart of the West Bank to Palestinians after diverting away from the E1 area all Palestinian traffic onto this new road. Consequently, the paving of the road will create a separate road system for Israelis and Palestinians.
- [Ir Amim](#) informed that on 27 April, a new settlement plan for the construction of 384 housing units in a highly sensitive area located between Ras al-Amud and Abu Dis was submitted to the Jerusalem District Planning Bureau. The establishment of a settlement in this location will sever the eastern connection of East Jerusalem to Abu Dis. This plan joins a spate of other settlement plans that Israel is currently promoting with the aim of completing the separation of East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank with the help of Israeli built-up areas.
- During the reporting period, several organizations issued statements following the death in an Israeli prison of prominent Palestinian activist and political prisoner Khader Adnan. [Al Haq](#) and [Addameer](#) published a statement from the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) informing that Khader Adnan was on the 86th day of his fifth hunger strike against his recent arbitrary arrest and detention by Israel. The Israeli Prison Service, who was holding Khader in solitary confinement, refused him family visitation rights, right up to his death. [Physicians for Human Rights](#) also published an article stating that the hunger strike was Adnan's last resort to nonviolently protest the oppression he and his people face every day. These strikes were a protest not only against his own administrative detentions but also against its decades-long use as a tool of political oppression against Palestinians.

Asia and Europe

- On 2 May, [Amnesty International](#) published the report "Automated Apartheid: How facial recognition fragments, segregates and controls Palestinians in the OPT." Amnesty International informed that the Israeli authorities are using an experimental facial recognition system known as "Red Wolf" to track Palestinians and digitally impose restrictions on their freedom of movement. The report explores how facial recognition technology is used extensively by the Israeli authorities to support their continued domination and oppression of Palestinians in the OPT. The Israeli authorities are able to use facial recognition software – in

particular at checkpoints – to consolidate existing practices of discriminatory policing, segregation, and curbing freedom of movement, violating Palestinians’ basic rights.

- On 27 April, [Law for Palestine](#) released the report “Israel’s Arrest Policy against Palestinian University Students (in the West Bank and Israel): A Tool for Eroding Palestinian National Identity and Consolidating Israeli Colonialism.” The report addresses Israel’s systematic weaponization of imprisonment of Palestinian university students of the West Bank as well as Palestinian university students who are citizens of Israel, as a tool to further erode Palestinian political and cultural identity.

North America

- On 11 May, [The Jerusalem Fund](#) will organize the discussion “Dispatches from the Homeland: A Conversation with Fayrouz Sharqawi.” Fayrouz Sharqawi is a Palestinian activist and co-founder and former director of Grassroots Al-Quds. She will discuss challenges Palestinians face and the ways they overcome fragmentation, isolation, and Israel’s relentless attacks on their lives and dignity. She will also emphasize Jerusalem’s critical role as a battleground for Palestinian perseverance against the erasure of their identity.
- On 2 May, the Arab Center Washington DC and the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) hosted a half-day conference to discuss the implications of the Abraham Accords for human rights and democracy across the region, as well as for US policies and priorities, regional and global alliances, and the future of both peace and Palestinian human rights. The conference panels discussed the diplomatic, economic, military, and technological components of these newly established relations, the motivations of each of the countries involved, and an overall assessment of the future of the Abraham Accords.
- On 2 May, the [Foundation for Middle East Peace](#) and [Project 48](#) published an article presenting a compilation of Palestinian artworks that convey the events of 1948 and the ongoing Nakba which shapes Palestinian histories, current realities, and futures.

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. For the first time in the history of the UN, this anniversary will be commemorated pursuant to the mandate by the General Assembly (A/RES/77/23 of 30 November 2022). The CEIRPP will organize a High-Level Special Meeting on 15 May 2023, from 10 am to 12.30 pm (NY Time) in Conference Room 4. A Special Commemorative Event will be held in the General Assembly Hall from 6 pm to 8 pm (NY Time). The event will bring to life the Palestinian journey and will aim at creating an immersive experience of the Nakba through live music, photos, videos, and personal testimonies. To register, please follow this [link](#).

- On 3 May, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) convened a meeting at UNHQ in New York. The meeting discussions covered the election of officers, preparation for the 15 May commemorations of the Nakba, and briefing on the guidelines and procedures for Member States to submit statements to the ICJ on the Advisory Opinion requested by the General Assembly.
- On 27 April, the [UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People](#) organized closed consultations with civil society organizations under the Chatham House Rule titled “The ongoing Nakba in Gaza: blockade, dispossession and denial of rights.” Participants included CSO representatives from State of Palestine, Israel and the United States, alongside Members and Observers of the Committee. Discussions focused on the Great March or Return and its legacy, the right of return of Palestine refugees, and violations of Palestinians’ right to access healthcare, and obstacles to family reunification. Focusing on Gaza helped to build bridges in a way which allowed participants to see the reality on the ground as a way of countering the sense of abandonment by the international community felt by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

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>